

\$100

THE AMERICAN HOME BOOK OF

HOME IMPROVEMENT IDEAS



**DOZENS
OF IDEAS
FOR**

Terraces • Doorways • Pools



Gates • Fences • Garden Rooms



Built-Ins • Room Dividers • Storage Walls • Radiators • Fireplaces



**A portfolio of remodeled houses —
Decorating ideas for every budget**



The ^{*}*key to*



The key to Home Improvement is pride—pride in self, pride in family, pride in home, pride in community. The state of being proud is not a quality to be ashamed of in spite of some negative connotations of the term. We like instead Webster's definition of pride: "...a reasonable delight in one's position, achievements, possessions."

You could hardly have bought this book unless you are to one degree or another "house proud", or have every intention of getting there. In the following pages you'll find plenty of inspiration for improving your home, from little one-evening projects to all-out remodeling. And then the chain reaction starts—you can't improve your home

Home Improvement -----

without improving your family's living, improving your property, and improving your community.

It is to all people who possess this "reasonable delight" of Mr. Webster's that this book is fondly—and encouragingly—dedicated.

What a bright new hat does to a gal's drooping spirits (and psychiatrists advise it), a face-lifting operation and some new paint will do to a sad-looking house. Some houses need really drastic tearing down and rebuilding to achieve worthwhile results, but a house, with basically good lines to start with, lends itself to remodeling with a minimum of structural changes. Here are two outstanding examples of what can be done. To the right, the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Cox, Los Angeles, California, required a major structural operation, and below, the home of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Vaughn, Berkeley, California, involved only a few, relatively minor, changes.

Friends agreed that Mr. Cox was justified in his opinion of the badly neglected old Spanish-style house. He had shaken his head and declared that he would never live in it no matter how Mrs. Cox had it remodeled. The interior was a veritable nightmare, both in plan and colors. But Mrs. Cox had courage and vision, and a firm belief in the ultimate satisfactory outcome. She attacked the problem with an exuberance and determination that was heightened by her husband's skepticism.

The first step was the removal of the roof and entire front of the house. The new flat roof included four-foot overhanging eaves. Large plate glass windows for the living room and dining room, and high half-windows for the front bedroom were placed in the new front wall. Tying the garage to the house with a timber fence, tall columns at the entrance and garage, and some changes in the entrance walk and front yard completed the exterior miracle. Inside, a few small modifications of the plan worked



BEFORE: When Mr. O. L. Cox first saw this outmoded 30-year-old Spanish style house, he didn't like it and said, "It's a sow's ear and you can never make a silk purse of it." But Mrs. Cox and designers Dingman and Wilbur went to work and proved him wrong. Yes, that's the result on the other side of the page.

How to chop years off the age of your house

wonders, and a complete decorating program covered the ravages of neglect and bad taste. Today Mr. Cox is proud of the house he once thought was beyond redemption.

The Vaughns had a relatively easy time bringing their home up to date. No partitions were moved, no walls knocked out, no windows had to be changed, and there was none of the usual clutter and confusion that marks a remodeling project. Instead, what happened was just a change here and there of things that dated the house, a complete paint job inside and out, new wallpaper and interior decorations, plus a landscaped garden, and the result is a clean, fresh modern look that bears little or no resemblance to the original structure. The chimneys were rebuilt, the exterior walls were painted a soft gray-green, and the roof and trim have been made white. Around the garden there is now a new white brick wall with a wooden gate.

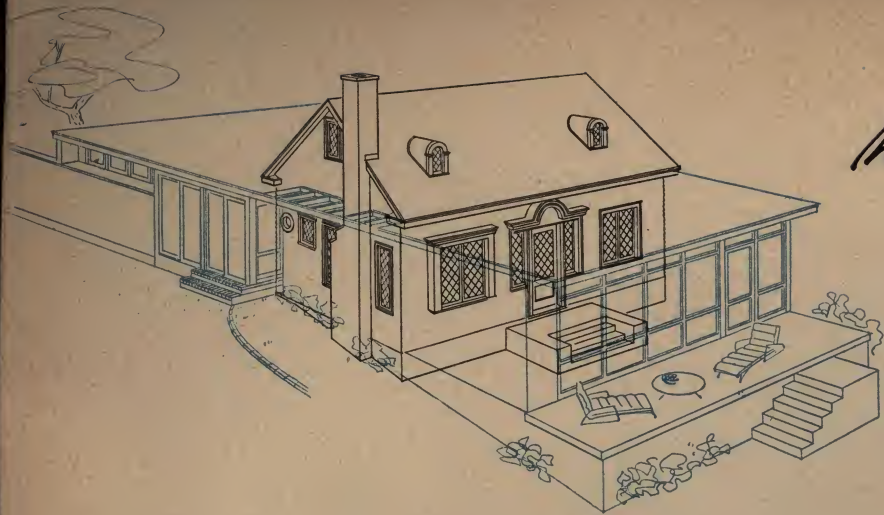
Inside the Vaughn home the principle changes consisted of new fireplaces to replace the old mantels in the living and dining rooms, and remodeling of the old-fashioned glass doors from the living room to the hall. The doors were covered with Masonite, a wallboard, to give the effect of solid wood doors.

Today both of these houses are as contemporary as can be. They have modern conveniences and lines to fit the up-to-date living of the owners. Years have been chopped off their ages. You may be able to do the same for your own home, if it has basically good lines. The redecorating will cost little more than normal periodical redecorations, and the structural remodeling costs less than building a new home of comparable quality.



BEFORE: The home of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Vaughn was nondescript behind an overgrown mass of vines, but Architect Harry A. Bruno changed all that. See, to the right, the miracle wrought by simply removing the vines, remodeling some minor details and the entrance, and applying a new coat of paint. Hard to believe, isn't it?





*In 1924 it started as a
Skinny Colonial Cottage*

As the floor plans show, this was no miracle with a can of paint. It took money, new wings fore and aft, and a thorough remodeling throughout to turn this pseudo-Spanish Cape Cod into a good modern home. And it took several years. But the owner, architect Thomas A. Carter, Jr., has figures to prove that even such extensive remodeling can pay off: on an equally good plot, a new house of similar size would have cost him much more.

A notable part of their story is the fact that the Carters actually lived here while the changes were gradually made. When they bought it, the house was a horror, and the so-called bedrooms were little more than shacks tacked onto the rear. But the main part of the structure was essentially sound. And so they moved in. And they stayed in, sheltered by a temporary plywood wall while the front was rebuilt. There were days when they had to bathe at their neighbors' and go out for their meals—but most of the time they lived normal lives, and even had friends in to dinner.

Here are the changes: a squarish addition, built onto the front, produced a whopping big living room plus an L-shaped terrace which is partly roofed over and screened. The old living room, fireplace and all, is still there, but part of it makes a real dining room now. New equipment added in kitchen and bath. The new wing to the rear contains a laundry-utility room, a master bedroom and bath, and a room for young son John. Exterior additions are redwood, painted gray-green, with accents of yellow and white. Inside, the Spanish stucco walls were marked with striated plywood and a fireplace was faced with green glass.

This House is 31 Years Old!



They "camped out" in this living room while changes were gradually made—but look at their reward! The small diamond-pane windows and old Spanish stucco are gone, and in their place are a whole side of glass, soft-toned plywood walls, good built-ins. The old fireplace is intact, but smartly masked by heavy green glass



The gable roofs the original part, and trellis ties two new wings to the old. The conversation above takes place outside loggia, but an ideal spot was provided for just sitting around—on the terrace shown opposite



1919

This House is 36 Years



Old !

A house needn't be addled with age before you modernize it. You paint every few years, and make repairs—so why not keep your house up to date while you bring it up to snuff? Only one drastic change was made in turning the fading façade of this home into a perky new one: the porch, which was in bad shape, was banished. After all, now that outdoor living has moved to the seclusion of the rear garden, front porches are not only useless—they make the living room dark. By replacing the porch with a handsome planter and a pert overhang which lets the sun enter the living room, this house was improved inside and out.

With the aid of architect Ames Ross, the Charles Wallensacks of Wayne, Ill., created style here without forcing their house to conform to any single period. The vertical siding of the first story was suggested by ranch houses—so was the charming but unorthodox use of such a color as heavenly blue. Oversize single-pane windows would have been out of harmony, so new sash has muntins which are in keeping with both upper section and lower. When you're refreshing a house, don't miss smart little tricks which make the difference between the gracious and the commonplace—touches like these: gay blue shutters which are so becoming here, the saucy door with its splashes of color, the jaunty hanging flowerpots which make a picture of a dull wall area, the curved walk which seems to enlarge the lawn.

A SUCCESS STORY

OFF CAME THE ENTRY PORCH
This, more than anything, dated the house. Roof and pillars were removed, new concrete steps built. Grading with fill in front made house seem closer to ground

ROOF WAS SQUARED OFF
Dutch Colonial roof was clipped. New overhang shades upstairs windows. Lacy grillwork on new gallery is of cast aluminum

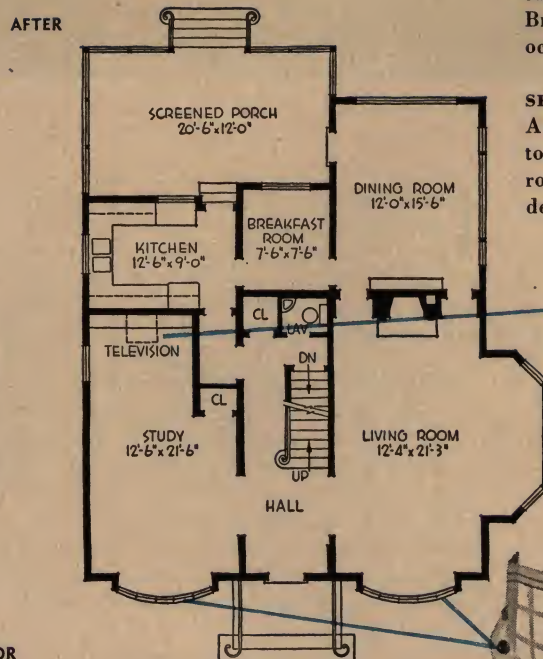
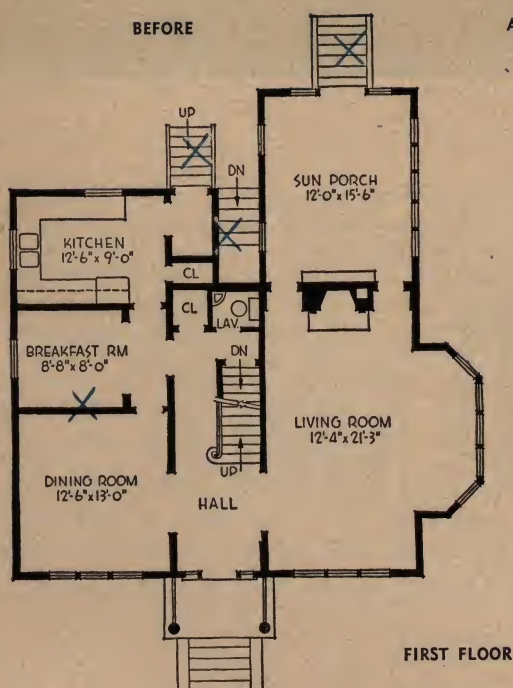
HANDSOME FRONT DOOR WAS ADDED
Gracious new door is flanked by blue-green louvered shutters, has three lights which brighten the entry hall. Simple open balustrades define the front steps without enclosing them

This House is 28 Years Old!

ROOMS WERE CHANGED AROUND
Addition of big screened porch at rear gave Reedys room for improvement. Old sun parlor became new dining room. Breakfast room was created from space occupied by kitchen and basement stairs

SECOND LIVING ROOM WAS GAINED
A big study-TV room was created by throwing together the former dining and breakfast rooms. New room has closet, bookshelves, desk for studying as well as television set

BAY WINDOWS WERE INSTALLED
To further the impression of a New Orleans house, elegant bay windows were added to end of study and living room. Frames are gently bowed; 16-light windows have insulated glass



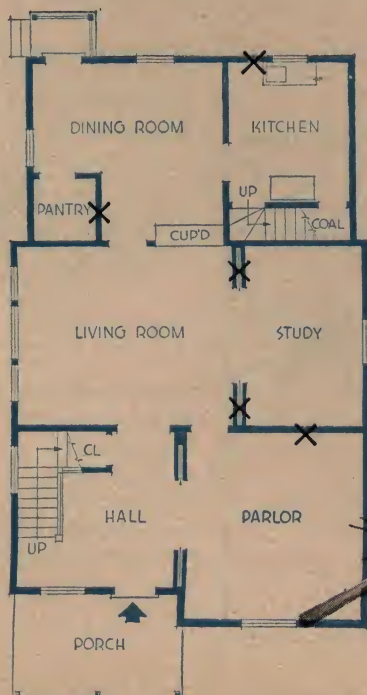
A SUCCESS STORY

This House

MASSIVE CORNICE WAS RIPPED FROM HOUSE, gable on front was removed to simplify roof line. New cedar shingles were nailed over old clapboard siding, stained gray; trim is white

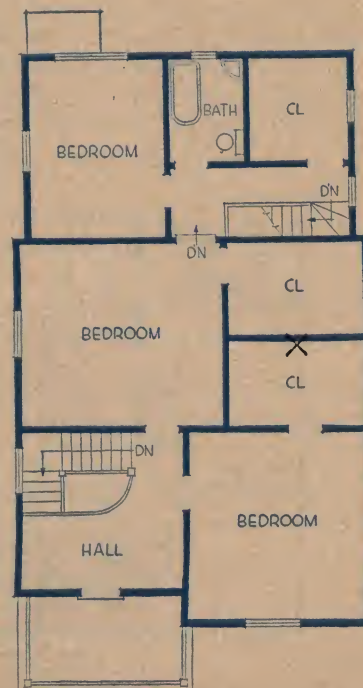


NEW PORCH WAS BUILT onto south side of house. Louvered panels at corners give feeling of substance to porch, make it seem more a part of main structure



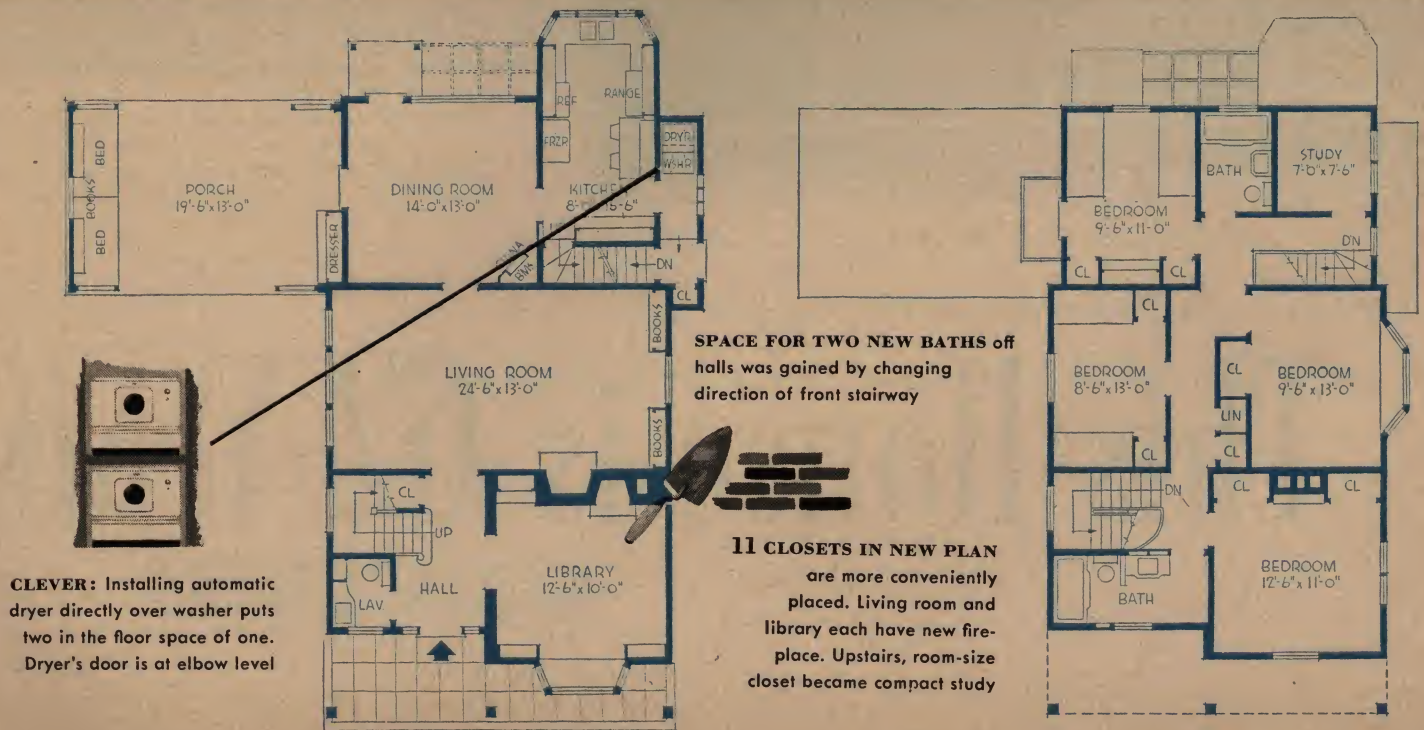
GAY 90's POSTS CAME OFF tacky front porch. Roof was extended, stately pillars erected to form portico. Good-looking door, a big bay window, further improved front façade

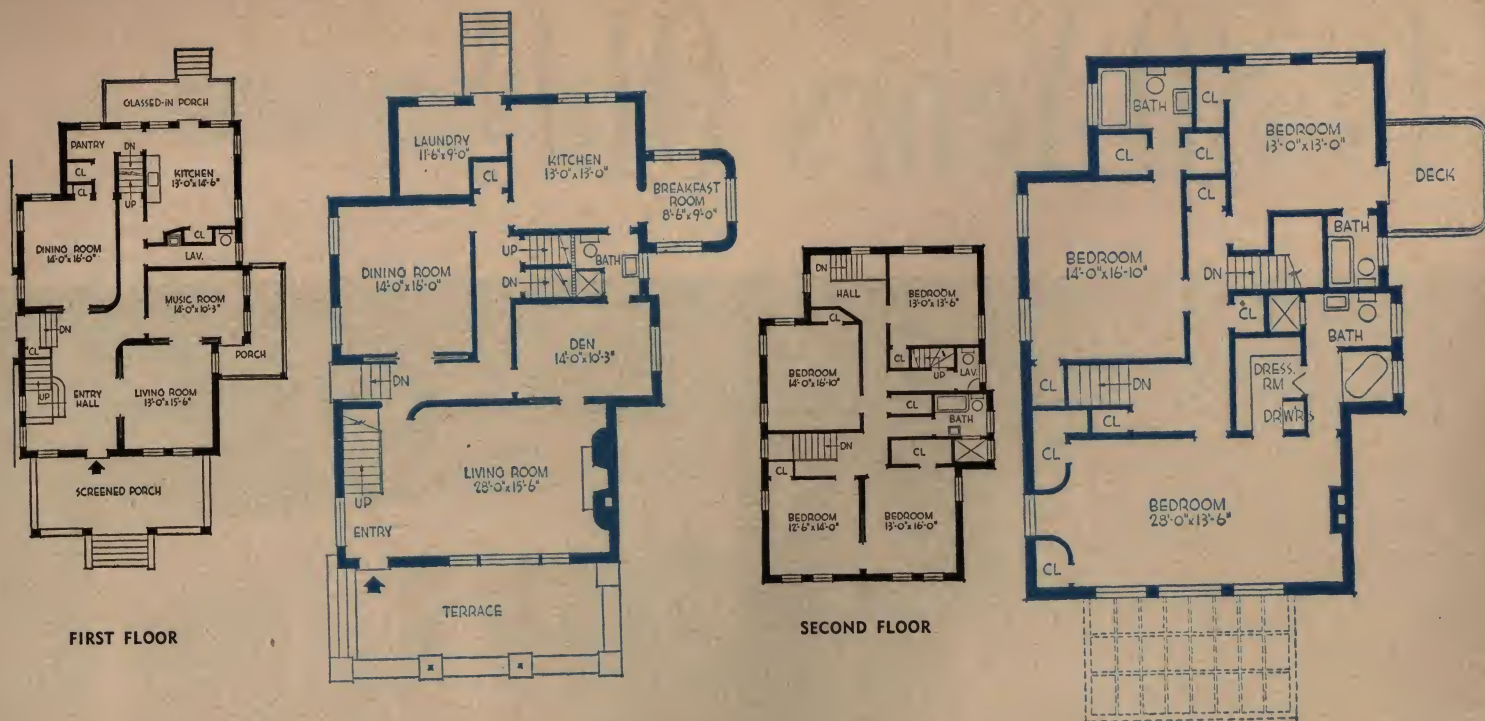
"BEFORE" PLANS SHOW CRAMPED ROOMS, bad traffic lanes. Downstairs, walls were knocked out to enlarge living room and kitchen. Upstairs, walls came down to make extra bedroom from two closets. Another bedroom lost a few feet to make a hallway. Contrast with "after" plans, opposite



Is 80 Years Old!

**OWNER-ARCHITECT: F. CLARE HINKLEY
GLENCOE, ILLINOIS**





The same house 1893

Dr. and Mrs. Bert Klein bought this house a few years ago when they found their pre-war bungalow too small for their post-war family. It was for sale, tagged low; it was in good repair; and it stood on a fine large lot near the Doctor's office. Knowing that it looked its age and that its rooms were too many and too small, they made plans, together with decorator Frederic J. Shuermann, to breathe this century's living into last century's walls. First the exterior. Since they didn't need the third-floor rooms and didn't like their outside looks, they performed a major operation of façade lowering. Off came the top floor, its roof replaced by a lower, hipped one. Next to go were porches and similar gingerbread. That flagstone terrace, topped by airy lattice, does look a lot better. Then came the windows. Instead of the prim ones, generous spans of glass now bring in light and air. The "before" and "after" plans tell the inside story. You will notice that there was plenty of subtraction and division for a far more practical use of space.

Did the remodeling cost a fortune? It might have if the materials in the house hadn't been sound and reused with wisdom, and if Dr. Klein didn't have a hand in some of the carpentry.

This House is 62 Years



Its owners bought what they could get, *made* it what
they wanted by remodeling completely. Any new
house equally spacious would have cost them far more

Old!

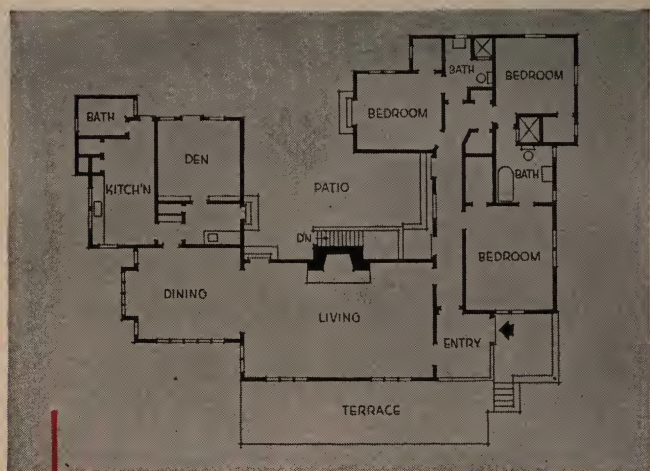
A SUCCESS STORY



Yes, that's the "before" picture above!

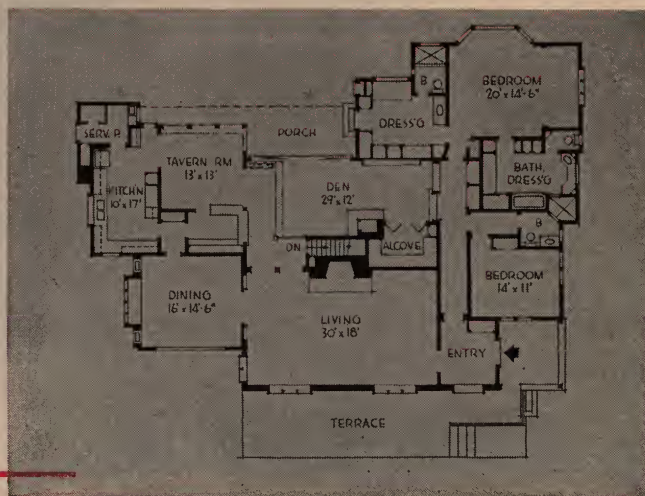
This house, built about 1912, was tastelessly remodeled in the 1920's when it acquired the ill-conceived modernistic look shown above. Opposite, see its 1951 reincarnation (after a second remodeling). It was given the timeless good looks of an English cottage by ripping off the gimcracks, facing the front with brick, adding a new roof and some simple but excellent landscaping

This



ARCHITECT: GERARD COLCORD

Before



After



House is 4 Years Old!

It looks so happily rooted on its hillside that it's hard to believe the house above hasn't basked there for years in that sunshine, just as it is. But actually, though its foundations are forty, its face is only one year old. Here's the story, a remodeling Right and Wrong as well as a Before and After: This house was built about 1912, then brought "up to date" during the 1920's by the tasteless masking of its façade with that modernistic gingerbread you see on the opposite page. That was Wrong. Now skip a few decades. In 1951, radio actor Elliot Lewis bought it for the sake of its sound structure and spacious interior, and, with help from architect Gerard Colcord, endowed it with its new and engaging personality. They were Right. They ripped off that heavy band around the top which was supposed to make the house look modern (but didn't), then repaired the scars with a brick front, and added the gently

pitched roof to achieve serene and timeless architectural design.

Dollar for dollar, it paid the Lewises to buy and alter this roomy house inside as well as out—a new one with the same amenities would have cost them much more. That new floor plan is perfect for a couple with very full lives. There's room for entertaining, plenty of it: formally in the large living room and dining room, informally in the tavern which flourishes in full view of the rear garden where the small den used to be. Since actor Lewis needs a den, too, they arranged for a large one on the site of the old patio—it was mostly walled in, so no important structural to-do was needed for roofing it over. Perhaps best of all is that master bedroom suite which follows a formula deserving high priority in your file of dream-house ideas: the big double bedroom provides for each of its owners the singular blessing of a private dressing room and bath.

If money is no object, if you have a big bankroll to shoot on a fine, brand-new house, a remodeling job is not nearly so much of a problem. The trick of course is to team thrift with taste in the revamping of old houses. That, after all, is what most of us face if we want up-to-date homes, for most American houses are at least 12 years old, and there are long years of life in them yet. If you own one, think of how much a little remodeling can do. If you're buying a home, think twice before passing up a well-priced oldster with good possibilities—a small investment you can turn into a very good deal indeed!

The once shoddy seaside cottage shown on this page required only a clever minimum—hardly more than “routine decorating”—to make it as inviting a small home as you'll find anywhere.

When decorator Louis deHaven Shaw bought it, the cottage at your left had a good view of the sea—and it didn't return the compliment! Outside, it was battered and dreary; indoors it was bleak as a dark, foggy day. But the simple steps which transformed it could do as much for many an old place—for a year around home, or for the kind of vacation retreat they price low because it looks more hopeless than it is. Step One was the face-lifting below, more effective than expensive: new garage doors, wood masking for the stairs, a saucy valance. But what counted for most was merely a paint job—instead of nondescript neutral, the house is now a striking greenish-blue. Inside, the structural changes were only minimum—the kitchen requiring the most remodeling. The green-blue color of the exterior is carried out inside too, and is the key to the entire decorating scheme.



Once Over Lightly

THE INCURABLE "ITCH FOR REMODELING!"

Besides being drab and dingy looking, this house had one outstanding characteristic. It was ordinary. So ordinary, in fact that its address was the only thing that distinguished it from hundreds like it in the city. The job of turning this nonentity into a charming home without spending too much money was indeed a brain-twister for the J. B. Sanzenbachers of Toledo, Ohio, but the proof that they solved their problem is quite evident in the finished product. Before painting the house, the side porch was removed, and the house extended six feet. An eleven foot bay window across the end of the new addition kept it from having a "tacked-on" look. The white railing around the roof of the addition is another thing which helps it to conform to the rest of the house, and that effective railing, like the shutters, was bought at bargain prices.



A Success Story

It's Not Nearly "Finished," BUT....

BUILDER: C. RAYMOND LUKENS, NORTH WALES, PA.



"The restoration is far from complete," writes George Moyer, whose home—and whose hobby—this venerable Pennsylvania manor house has become. "Shutters must be reconstructed, proper hardware must be found, boxwood must be planted. But finishing one project goads you on to the next. For centuries, the name of this place has been 'Flatlands,' though we're thinking of changing it to 'Restoration Unlimited.' Its story is a long one, studded with feast and famine, happiness and despair. And now, we fervently hope, it's a story with a happy ending."

The happy ending, of course, is really a good new beginning. Like many another young couple, George and Jo Moyer believe that there's no place like the country for raising your kids, and so, a few years ago, when they found the hard-up rural homestead pictured above, they bought it for the very low asking price. Their original intention was merely to make it liveable—to repair the holes in the roof, to fix the windows which were "glazed" with flattened oil tins, to coax back a modicum of its ancient dignity. "But," as George puts it, "on completion of the roof, whose 222-year-old sag has been retained, the virus of restoration had attacked. So many of the basic beauties of the house remained, and so sound was its design, that real restoration was the obvious course." And restore it is what they did—lovingly. And gradually. When they couldn't find, or couldn't at the moment afford, just the right thing, they were wisely willing to wait. We hope someday to show you this house "complete"—or as nearly complete as any real home ever can be. But because, like the Moyers, so many of us must bide our time in home building and decorating, their gracious way of proceeding step-by-step is a story in itself.

Good restorations require knowledge, patience, affection—and usually, more cash than anticipated. So, to offset their investment in the building itself, the Moyers compromised temporarily in furnishing it. Some of their pieces are good—others, not so good, have been gently lifted in spirit by the smart use of paint and new slipcovers. But there's nothing makeshift about the effects Jo produced by underplaying the compromise furniture and letting the distinguished background take over—and there was nothing casual about the effective interplay of color she has created in this home.





A Success Story



Remodeled 20 years ago, this 60-year-old house still has a "just finished" look.

The secret: the remodeling was patterned after a distinguished Colonial house

A Success Story



At top of the page, the tired house in 1929, shortly before architect Walton, inspired by a fine small Philadelphia Colonial, made the remarkable changes seen on the opposite page. On the interior, such excellent Colonial details as the paneled fireplace, doors, and authentic hardware are much fresher than Victorian ones they replaced



After 20 years, a remodeled house is apt to look as dated as it did before remodeling, for in redoing old houses, we often incorporate clichés of our own day, things popular at the moment, but soon outmoded. But when architect Lewis B. Walton bought and remodeled this house in Winnetka, Ill., two decades ago (it was 40 years old at the time), he chose a real classic as his model. The result: a timeless façade which looks fresh as ever today—and will keep right on looking well.

Architect Walton, a native of Philadelphia, patterned the remodeling after a fine small Philadelphia house built in late 18th century for philanthropist Stephen Gerard, and the revamping required some doing. First, the porch was removed. Then, to correspond with the Philadelphia model, and to correct the too-tall look the porchless house presented, the roof was entirely changed: instead of coming to a peak at the front, the peak is now on the side, and the slope of the roof at the front gives the whole structure a lower look, better proportions. A garage with similar roof line was added. Instead of two upstairs windows, three slightly smaller ones correspond tidily to windows and doors below. The old shingle gave way to beveled wood siding, a handsome doorway and shutters were added, gray-blue paint with white trim made it a proud house.

On the inside, the kind of good changes were made to which many an old house lends itself: the small parlor and dining room were combined into one generous living room, and a rear porch was enclosed to create a new dining room.

When it was sold several years ago, the fact that it was about 60 years old was no drawback to prospective purchasers. The Matthew Devines fell in love with it—and no wonder, for a fresh coat of paint is all this successfully remodeled house ever needs to remain a success.

It Was



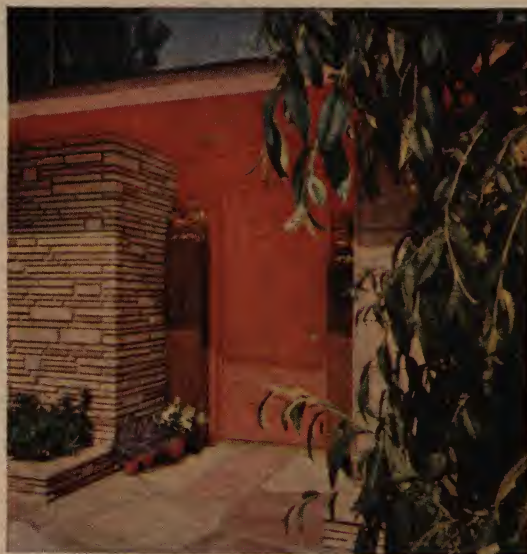
OWNERS: MR. AND MRS. MATTHEW L. DEVINE • ARCHITECT: LEWIS B. WALTON, A.I.A.

Remodeled 20 Years Ago



CHITECT FOR REMODELING: JEROME ARMSTRONG LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: WARREN JONES DECORATOR: JOHN GARNER

Rebuilding the drive, changing the color, and adding a Chinese fretwork motif, turned an undistinguished modern into a fitting treasure chest for a collection of Chinese art. Sliding screens over west-facing window give importance to a difficult wall, filter out excessive sun, and carry the Chinese motif into a living room finished to compliment works of art. Since living room was small, a wall-wide cornice adds to its apparent width. Subtly toned grasscloth on the walls was cut into narrow strips—in better scale with the room than panels of the normal width would have been





HOW TO MAKE A GOOD HOUSE

Better!

If one trait most distinguishes us Americans from other peoples, it is our happy habit of refusing to leave well enough alone—if we can improve it, that is, as the George Hertzes did in perfecting this “well-enough” house. It certainly did not look like a candidate for remodeling when they bought it—a good, though undistinguished, contemporary structure of fieldstone and varnished redwood, well set on its corner lot, and only a few years old.

But it did have its faults. For one thing, the front lawn was badly cut up by a driveway which entered sharply at one side and exited as sharply at the other. Then, the exterior color wasn't quite to the taste of the new owners, collectors of Chinese art who wanted a more subtle setting for themselves and their treasures. Another thing in need of correction was the living room's picture window, which faced due west and admitted much too much sun on hot summer afternoons. So they called in professionals to improve it.

First, the architect added a new garage to the rear, turned the existing garage into an additional room, and faced it with fieldstone to match and balance the fieldstone near the entry. Next, he widened the entry itself. Then he designed sliding panels to shade that west

window, backed them with matchstick blinds, and embellished them with a handsome Chinese fretwork motif which became an appropriate theme song for the house. Finally, the whole exterior was painted a soft shade of beige, punctuated by bright coral accents.

A landscape architect took over to restore the front lawn and add a garnishing of shrubs. Now a single driveway, wide enough for two cars, curves gracefully to the house and exits to the side street. A decorator completed the job by making the smallish rooms look larger, and by pointing up the Hertz possessions while giving first consideration to the comfort of their owners.

And so a good existing house became a perfect one for the people who occupy it—for a much smaller investment than a new custom job would have required.





When Sid and I used to talk about our dream house, I pictured, among other charms, a welcoming front door with flowers blooming gaily, left and right. What we got for our \$15,000 (for "a house with basement") was a door one-third the way up the front with a flight of ugly cement steps. Flowers? 'Way down thar, leaving the entrance bare and windswept.

Undaunted, Sid began to squint calculatingly out said door and doodle purposefully on the tablecloth. Two months and two weeks later (his vacation and weekends except for rainy days), we looked out that same door upon flowers in profusion blending with a flagstone patio and rock-walled planter box that raises them to the door level. Now, tulips and daffodils welcome callers in spring, and later creeping phlox, pansies, English daisies, lavender alyssum, dwarf blue ageratum, and petunias provide color right along until frost. The dark green of small, slow-growing boxwoods, that punctuate

Here's a Brand New Approach



the strip of color at 15-in. intervals, adorns the wall all winter, and ivy at the house end will, in time, climb up around, and probably above, the door.

The simple plan involved, first, an inner wall of cinder blocks surrounding tamped dirt fill, and a slab of reinforced concrete completely covering the old stoop. Next, a 6-in.-wide concrete footing was laid 15 in. out from the wall, and on it was built a random flagstone retaining wall to hold the soil of the planter box. Flagstones (some of which we collected) were then laid atop the concrete for a smooth, colorful surface, and to form the risers of the single step. Nothing complicated or technical, or Sid (with stone-and-mortar experience limited to setting up a clothes pole) would not have attempted it, for his only help (minor) came from me. The cost? Only \$122.72, as listed below, plus \$22 for topsoil, plants, and planting—hundreds of dollars less than a professional job would have cost. And a joy to us it is, for our home now has personality all its own.

WHAT IT COST

Gravel and cement	\$23.92
Fill (from nearby project)	2.00
Mortar mix (for flagstone)	10.86
Flagstone (we collected some)	69.39
Cinder blocks and brick	13.11
Reinforcing bars for concrete	2.59
Brick chisel (for shaping stones)85

Total.....\$122.72

Yes, it's the same house as the one below. Porch has disappeared, hand-split cedar shake roof is new, side walls are covered with combed-cedar shingles, old windows replaced with banks of windows



A Successful Revival

The next time you see an old house, if you're looking at it with a buyer's eye, don't say "not for me" until you're sure you are right. Hundreds of remodeled houses have turned out to be sensationally successful, and there are still plenty of them on the market. They offer a challenge, to be sure, but the pleasure in money saved and experience gained is its own reward.

The Walter A. Schultz house is a prime example of what can be done if you know what you're looking for and what to do with it when you find it. Many of us would have passed it by after one look, judging from the "before" picture, but not the Schultzes. They saw that its worst faults were small windows that allowed too little light and air to get inside, a composition roof, too many little rooms—all deadly dreary—and a small mountain in the back yard. But Mr. Schultz realized that these could be corrected.

Counting his cash, he decided to do the remodeling himself, which meant leading a double life—bread-winning and house-building. But Mr. Schultz is young and stout of heart. He did even more than open up windows, add a new roof, and throw three small rooms into one large living-area. He added one room and an entrance hall at the front, covered the outside of the house with combed-cedar shingles, put down new hardwood floors, and paneled the living-room walls.



Before shot of the house. Too many little windows opening into too many small rooms, tasteless and mediocre. House faces a busy thoroughfare

You Don't Have

BEFORE



Look at its fireplace and you can usually tell just about when a house was constructed, for architectural fads are apt to show up clearly at this focal point. But if a mantel is Gothic or Usonian, Victorian, Edwardian, Greek-revival—or merely out of harmony with your taste—simple changes often set matters right. Perhaps a coat of dark paint or some plywood paneling will camouflage the defects, or, as in the case above, new trim may turn the trick. Here, no structural alterations were needed to make a harmonious entity of a badly balanced, dated fireplace—any Handy Andy could do it. Doors were removed from the cupboards, and scalloped trim was added; then a wall-long mantel shelf, similarly scalloped, was put up to tie things together. Before remodeling, the wall was “bottom heavy,” a situation corrected by window-wide curtains, contrasting with the walls, and balancing the bookcases. The chimney breast—a lean, unattractive one—was hidden behind a huge mirror which lends excitement to the setting. (Home of Mrs. Verna Yocum, Tucson, Arizona. James Goebel, consultant decorator.)

to Tear Down Your House

TO GET A GOOD LOOKING FIREPLACE



With its great yawning niches, the "kind-of-Colonial" fireplace at your right dominated the room, but had no aesthetic merit. When they remodeled the house, the R. Blakeley Honeymans of Portland, Oregon, called in Architect John K. Dukehart to redesign the wall. He removed the old mantelpiece entirely, but left the costly masonry intact. The new mantel, much lighter in feeling, is gracefully paneled, and narrowed down to give the wall better proportions. Its simple shelf makes a sympathetic setting for impressive Shinto candlesticks and other antique bibelots.





Isn't it a pleasant dining room now? It wasn't, though, just a short time ago, as you can see in the picture at your right. Dated, ugly, and depressing, it was typical of thousands of bungalows of the World War I era. An all-out solution might have been to rip out the wainscoting and do away with that horror of a cupboard (the first thing you saw upon entering the house); or to strip-down and refinish the woodwork. But these were costly propositions if done by professionals. A good, middle-of-the-road compromise was to clean, rub, and polish the woodwork and to use, above it, a wallpaper with small diagonal pattern on a cedar-colored ground — a shade that blends in with the wood's tones and ties the rooms together. To make the wallpaper area larger, and so diminish the height of the wainscoting, the picture molding was removed, and replaced at the ceiling line. Then the doors were banished from the upper part of the cupboard, and replaced by a scalloped frame and open shelves upon which colorful china is displayed.

You Don't Have



One bungalow, badly bungled: that's what confronted Decorator Anne Phillips when the Worley Ladens consulted her about the tired interiors of this *circa* 1915 home. You must have seen their counterparts many a time: the oppressive wainscoting, the enormous beams, the ugly, carpenter-built cupboards—and wanted to rip them all out. But it was a freshening-up, not an all-out job, that the Ladens had in mind—just the kind of challenge dear to the heart of Mrs. Phillips who spends hours a week teaching young people to make the most of their dollars and taste. It's easy enough, if you have plenty of money, to go on an all-out decorating binge. But you don't have to—our pictures prove that. Changes here were not major, but they make a very effective minor monument to good taste.





Structural changes in the living room consisted simply of raising the picture molding and removing glass doors from the bookcases—and much better proportions resulted in each case. But it was color that really “remodeled” as well as redecorated both of these rooms. Living-room walls were matched to those in the dining room, and throughout the entire area a new textured carpet in a rich shade of turquoise creates a sense of luxury and space as it flows from one room to the other, and on into the TV room (formerly an unused “spare” room). Two love seats were covered to match the rug—a wise way of adding apparent spaciousness, for the love seats appear to occupy less space than they would if they contrasted with the rug in color. And what an improvement all of this is over the former busy tangle of floral patterns! The important lesson here is: “If you can’t lick ‘em, join ‘em!” If your room has dark woodwork you can’t change, pick a paper or paint that blends in with the wood, then use light, fresh colors against that dark background.

to Go All-Out TO PERK UP A ROOM



BEFORE: Living room was cut up by doors and windows, so paper was steamed off, walls and woodwork were painted white, and two small windows were covered by expanse of drapery. Result: Calm in place of clutter



BEFORE: Mantel added to visual confusion. Now it's white. "Fishmobile," of stained glass, and chicken wire, and brass planter box were both weekend projects—made with borrowed tools



WE

Sofa had to be comfortable, contemporary, copious, and durable enough to withstand acrobatics of progeny. Five-piece sectional, curved around the one corner free of doorways, provides 14 feet of seating space. New vinyl-cork tile flooring was installed in all downstairs living areas (with some professional help), and area rugs point up furniture groupings



DIDN'T TOUCH THE OUTSIDE!

Our house has two personalities. Outside, it's straight Shaker Heights Georgian, circa 1925—pleasant, but not the house Marilyn and I had planned upon. The second personality greets you inside the front door—and that one, we feel, reflects our own tastes. We had wanted to build a contemporary house, but when the project bogged down, we decided to remake an old one. Finally we found this place which offered ample space for ourselves, our daughter Claudia (then 16 months old), our son Dean (three months away, at the time), and for several more youngsters we anticipated.

It's the first house I've ever lived in—and I think it's wonderful. Economically, the deal worked out well too. The house was appraised by the bank at \$21,500. Since \$23,000 would have been a fair price at that time, we were delighted to have our \$19,000 offer accepted. Into "remaking" it, went a total of \$4,238, plus 310 hours of my labor—but that includes kitchen equipment, flooring, decorat-

ing, draperies, and \$1,000 worth of new furniture. And so we have it, complete, all for the value of the unimproved building alone.

During my two-week vacation, we moved in, and the Great Face Lifting began—on the inside, where we'd be living. The biggest project I had ever attempted up till then was building a model airplane—but now I've taken to wearing old clothes around the place, and acting as though I'd been a handy homeowner all my life. We tried to avoid the common pitfall of the do-it-yourself clan by scheduling our projects instead of trying to tackle them all simultaneously, and the fact that Marilyn was "expecting" kept that schedule close.

The entire house was covered with layers of wallpaper, the newest 15 years old. Because Claudia was always underfoot, we decided against using a steamer. Instead, I borrowed a pressure-type garden sprinkler, sprayed down a room at a time. Half an hour after spray-

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE



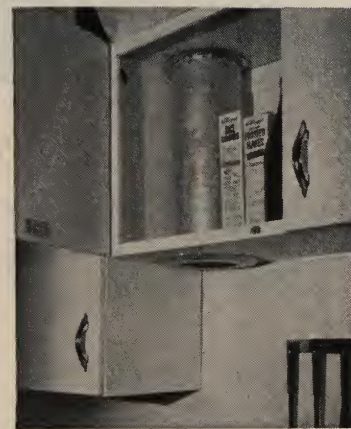
New wallpaper, new floor, and new lighting fixture provided good background for contemporary dining room furniture which, though not new, was refurbished by buffing wheel on an electric drill

We Didn't Touch the Outside

ing, the paper yielded as easily as banana skin. As our project proceeded, our confidence grew—and so did our list of advisors. A local paint manufacturer told us about a wall primer used by hospitals. It is quick-drying, odorless, and only a bit more expensive than ordinary interior primers. After filling in all cracks and nail holes, I primed walls and woodwork downstairs in one day—and Marilyn slept in comfort that night in an odor-free house.

But before we finished the other rooms, we made the kitchen Top Project. When you're raising a flock, you have Pablum—and pandemonium. And when pandemonium breaks, it breaks in the kitchen, so the kitchen better be as good as you can make it. Ours was originally 9' x 18', with a seven-foot square breakfast room branching from it. Paper and linoleum were aged, and the large, musty-looking cupboards testified that there were no supermarkets in 1925!

First step was to construct a cardboard scale model of kitchen and adjoining rooms—we borrowed small models of sinks and cabinets from an appliance dealer. After many "build 'em up . . . rip 'em down" sessions, we decided to make one large L-shaped sweep of kitchen



Standard kitchen cabinet at left is receiving end of laundry chute from second floor. One at right, over range, exhausts cooking odors: small motor and deep-pitch rubber blade are mounted in section of galvanized stove pipe running through cabinet, then under soffit to outside wall

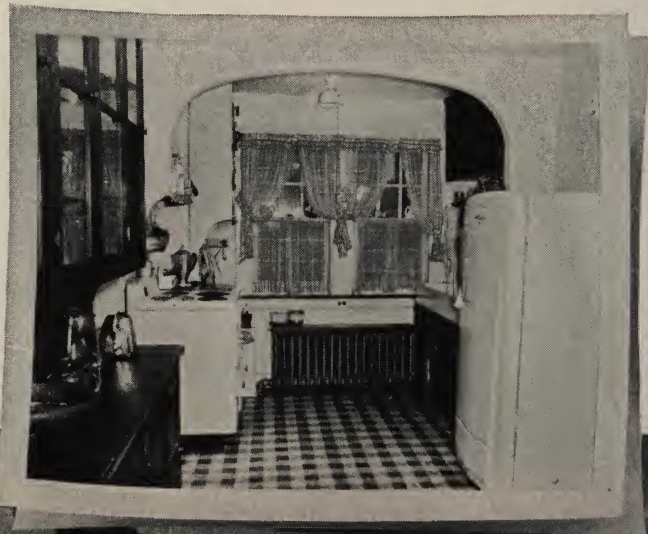
and breakfast room, and to line up new appliances and cabinets along two walls. Where old cupboards had stood, we would have a linoleum-topped plywood snack bar, complete with soda-fountain stools. All that blocked our plan were a wall and an archway which succumbed to sledge-hammer and crowbar. We provided adequate water lines and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 106

BEFORE: Kitchen showed its age more than any room in the house. Wall and archway at right were removed by sledge hammer and crowbar wielded by owner. Old breakfast room became new laundry. Additional water lines were brought in, and the room was rewired to provide adequate 220-volt outlets for electrical appliances. To avoid confusion, new appliances were installed one at a time



BEFORE: Dark cabinets were inconvenient, and never looked clean. Out they came. In their place, a new snack bar. New appliances and cabinets were installed in an easy L plan. Windows extend below sink top, so sill was removed and vertical-panel draperies on fixed rods solved the visual problem—bottom one rides the sink top



Ideal with traditional, and modern-minded too, is this cover built of $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch plywood with Chinese coin cutouts, and backed by perforated steel for strength. The top of this and all our other covers is $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood, which you can paint or finish to suit yourself. Linoleum or other hard surface materials make good tops

Hide That Ugly Radiator



With well-seasoned wood and
Line their lids with



The radiator cover is worth noting for its own sake, but see how imaginatively it was combined with simple chests to make a sleekly furnished corner of the awkward spot shown in the inset. The new radiator cover simply became a companion piece to the chests. Disregarding the size of the radiator itself, the cover was built the full width of the double window. Perforated steel makes front and sides of the cover, and it was given a coat of brass paint. Wood strips, stained to match the chests, were placed to carry out the lines of the latter. To tie chest and cover together still more, both were topped by $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood covered with marbled paper, then shellacked. For trimness, papered tops were butted at the corner

If top is well insulated, radiator cover can double as a buffet. Front of this one is a piece of $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch plywood, backed with perforated steel, painted black. The rooster and two flanking panels are cutouts. Wood may be stained to match the furniture, or sealed and painted to match your color scheme



A pair of adjustable shutters and a top of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood were the raw materials for this effective cover. The upper half of the shutters form the front, the two lower panels make the sides, and the adjusting part can control the direction of the heat. Stain shutters, or paint any color



some perforated steel, you can build radiator covers tailored to your room.

insulating board, and the covers can work on the double—as display shelves the whole year round

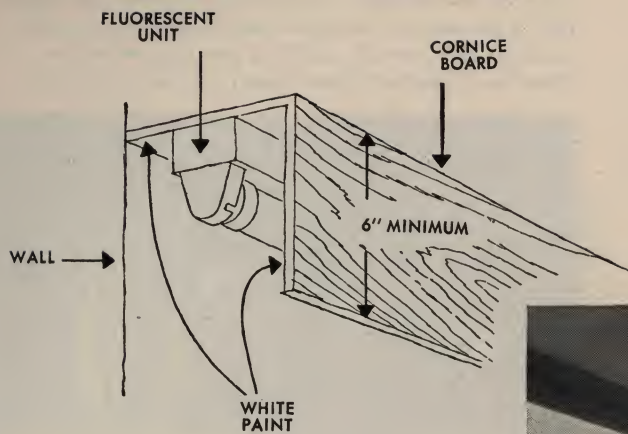


A natural blonde, and very companionable to furniture that's blonde in tone, is this radiator cover made of perforated steel painted any color you please, then accented with strips of "bamboo" placed to form a design well-proportioned to the space (you might prefer fewer rectangles, or more; or you might have only the vertical, or only the horizontal strips). But this economical "bamboo" isn't natural—it is practical half-round wood molding stained to resemble bamboo, then varnished



A high, skinny radiator is a difficult one to mask gracefully, so we took special pains with this cover, and we are so proud of its good looks that we've made a complete pattern of it. The design turns the tall, narrow shape to advantage with a panel of perforated steel outlined in a simple molding, knowingly applied. This design could be extended to house a wider radiator

Light Where

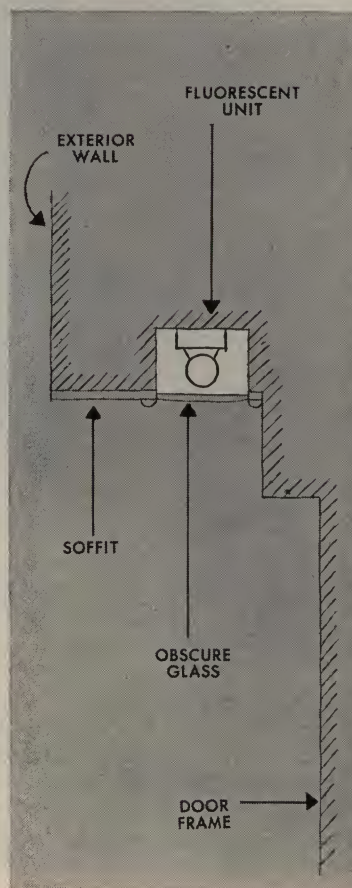


For years we have all been familiar with fluorescent lighting in its use in shop windows, stores, offices. You may even have fluorescent lighting in your kitchen or bathroom. But it has taken these glowing wands of light quite a few years to break down the barriers of prejudice and gain acceptance in the living rooms of the home. Modern designers have been their greatest champions and have used these fluorescent units with striking—and sensible—effect. One of their most valued talents is their adaptability to function as a hidden source of light: illumination of any desired level, but so unobtrusively built in that you are rarely conscious of where the light comes from. Here are a few facts that may help you in your choice of a new kind of light where you need it . . .

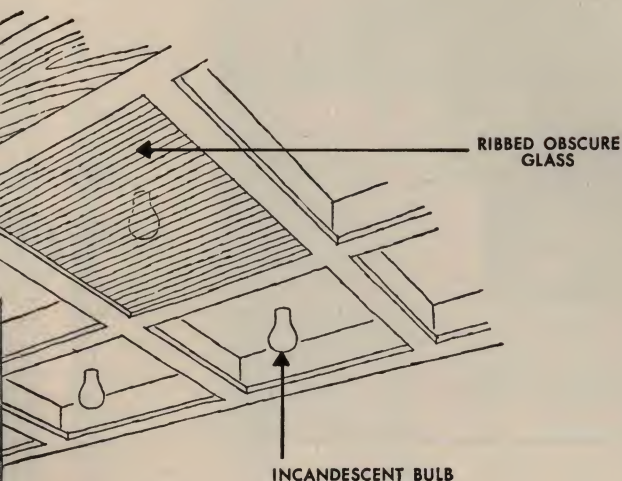
Does fluorescent lighting change the color of home furnishings? Yes, to a degree, and so does incandescent lighting alter colors if we use natural daylight as our standard. During recent years, however, there has been a tremendous improvement in the color rendition of fluorescent tubes. Today there are fluorescent tubes that bring out *all* of the colors in all materials . . . foods and complexions included. First, decide if a cool or warm atmosphere is desired, then choose the De Luxe Cool White or the De Luxe Warm White to produce the desired effect. Fluorescent lighting now has not only acceptance but genuine popularity.

Are the fluorescent tubes limited in scope? No, during the last ten years rapid strides have been made in sizes. There are straight lengths from 6" up to an almost room-long 8', and circular tubes 8½", 12" and 16" in diameter. Plastic- and glass-diffusing media for shielding the tubes have greatly improved in appearance as well as in efficiency. **Is it a complicated matter to have fluorescent lighting installed?** No, the permanently installed fixture, valance, or cornice fluorescent lighting is simply connected directly to the wires at the outlet-box location. In planning fluorescent lighting, the advice of experienced dealers or lighting-fixture people should be sought. You have simply to outline your problem and they will show you how to achieve the effect you desire. In many towns and cities the electric service company maintains a staff of engineers and home-lighting specialists, who are glad to give unbiased recommendations for fashionable fluorescent lighting. If you have a seemingly peculiar or difficult problem, do not hesitate to take advantage of this free and tremendously valuable service.

Can incandescent and fluorescent lighting be used in the same room? Yes, most people prefer a subtle blending of incandescent bulbs in floor



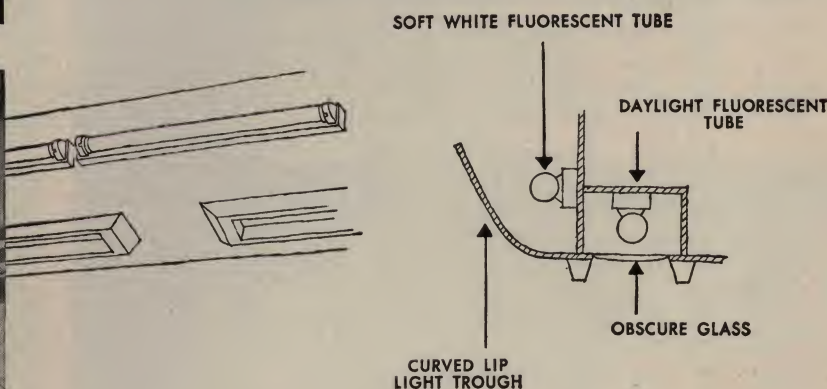
You Need It



and table lamps and fluorescent tubes concealed behind valances and cornice boards.

Is it necessary to have the hum of fluorescent lighting? No. Parts called ballasts are built into the metal channels of housing that holds the sockets and the tubes, and if quality ballasts are used there is no hum. An inferior ballast or poorly fabricated fixture may produce a hum. Naturally, all inferior parts should be avoided.

Can fluorescent lighting be used in "period" rooms? Certainly. Here its ability to hide itself is of great advantage in rooms which may be poorly lighted by handsome but inadequate table lamps. It has been successfully installed behind such authentic architectural woodwork details as deftly curved period cornices near the ceiling of a room. The luminous tubes shed a clear soft light over the ceiling which is reflected downward as general illumination. Or they may be installed behind cornice boards of valances of draperies to shed light both downward and upward over the ceiling. Beneath obscure glass panels or tucked behind moldings, they can shed light upward and outward into recessed niches to light plants or collections. The new circular tubes can be recessed into the bowls of many period chandeliers to shed a soft glow over the ceiling.



1. Fluorescent lighting can keep unobtrusive company with elegant period furnishings, and provide adequate lighting where lamps are out of place. Simple cornice board above this bay window continues along one wall, conceals new slim-line fluorescent tubes

2. One 40-watt fluorescent tube in a recessed glass-shielded luminaire directs light downward over entrance steps, lighting the front door as well. Slanted white plaster wings at either side are good reflectors. How much more effective—and safe—than the usual dim bulb

3. Incandescent downlight from this light box supplements fluorescent lighting used elsewhere in room. Rheostat-controlled bulbs light all at once or in alternate panels behind squares of ribbed obscure glass

4. Soft-light fluorescent tubes in cove shed warm light outward over ceiling; daylight tubes behind obscure glass shed cool light downward. Both installations on this page in the home of architect John Lindsey, A.I.A.



The simple detail of this modern version of a classic mantel design is good for a rather formal room. The usual shelf is absent, but the fascia board bows out gracefully. Price is about \$47



Here, for an informal room of Colonial atmosphere, we have an authentic copy of an Early American mantel with a rich but simple molding like a picture frame around the fire. Approximately \$47



For those who like the Georgian spirit, there are reproductions of originals with all the fine details and proportions that make this style so pleasant and popular. Approximate price \$57

You can buy these ready-made!

Here is a group of attractive, effective doors, mantels, and cabinets. Each one was reproduced from an authentic design of years ago, or adapted by a modern-day architect or designer to fit into a more up-to-date background, while retaining its Colonial character. You can buy these ready-made from your local lumber or millwork dealer, at a reasonable price, all ready for easy installation.

Practically all of the beautiful Colonial woodwork which impresses us so in the historical houses of America was planned and executed by the finest craftsmen of that time. Each object was individually designed, "custom-made" as we call it now. Naturally, most of us can't afford that sort of thing today, so a group of architectural woodwork manufacturers have chosen some of the best designs and either duplicated them or used the design as a basis from which to produce something more adaptable to the individual taste.

There are three woodwork features which we're apt to notice first when we walk into a house: the front entrance, fireplace mantel, and china cabinets. Especially the entrance. It's the thing we stare at when we're waiting to be greeted. The fireplace and china cabinet are built-in, and in many cases their style determines to a great extent the decorating and furnishings—sort of sets the tempo. Hence, choose most carefully when you build your new house or remodel an old one. One thing that's always good to keep in mind—when in doubt, keep them simple!

To the left and on the facing page are a few examples of the fine work done by one of our architectural woodwork manufacturers. Prices are average for the country, and don't include installation costs since they will vary with the individual home and the local wage scale.

1. The simple, classic lines found in many Colonial home entrances, used with any of a number of paneled door designs, with or without glass, goes well with all the standard wall constructions and materials. Approximate price of frame with door \$126

2. Particularly attractive with a wide entrance hall is this popular, dignified entrance with side sash to brighten the hall with daylight, and a transom that may be glass or a fan panel design. Frame and paneled door shown cost about \$286

3. For the informal room this simple china cabinet, an authentic copy of an early Eighteenth century design, is both charming and functional. Here it is used as a bookcase, with the cupboard at the bottom for miscellaneous storage. Costs approximately \$88

4. In a dining room the bottom cupboard is excellent for trays and other meal-serving accessories. The shelves, open or behind glass doors, hold china, as in this handsome and formal Colonial cabinet for the more dignified room. Approximate price \$154



Photographs by Richard Garrison, Hedrich-Blessing, from Curtis Companies Service Bureau



To divide entrance hall and living room: a bleached-oak frame with inset panels of ribbed glass. The glass obscures vision, but lets in light. The William Eisens' home



To mask a stairway that lets directly into living room: checkered glass set in a painted frame above a plant-filled ledge. Bernard Strauss' home, by Fred Barienbrock



To create an entrance hall: a partition at right angles to wall includes a coat closet, a bamboo blind, and built-in overhead lighting. The Carl Andersons' home



To separate living and dining areas: counter is both bar and plant-box, topped by a slatted trellis which suggests division, but allows light and air. Jack Buchter's home

ROOM DIVIDERS

They can separate rooms,

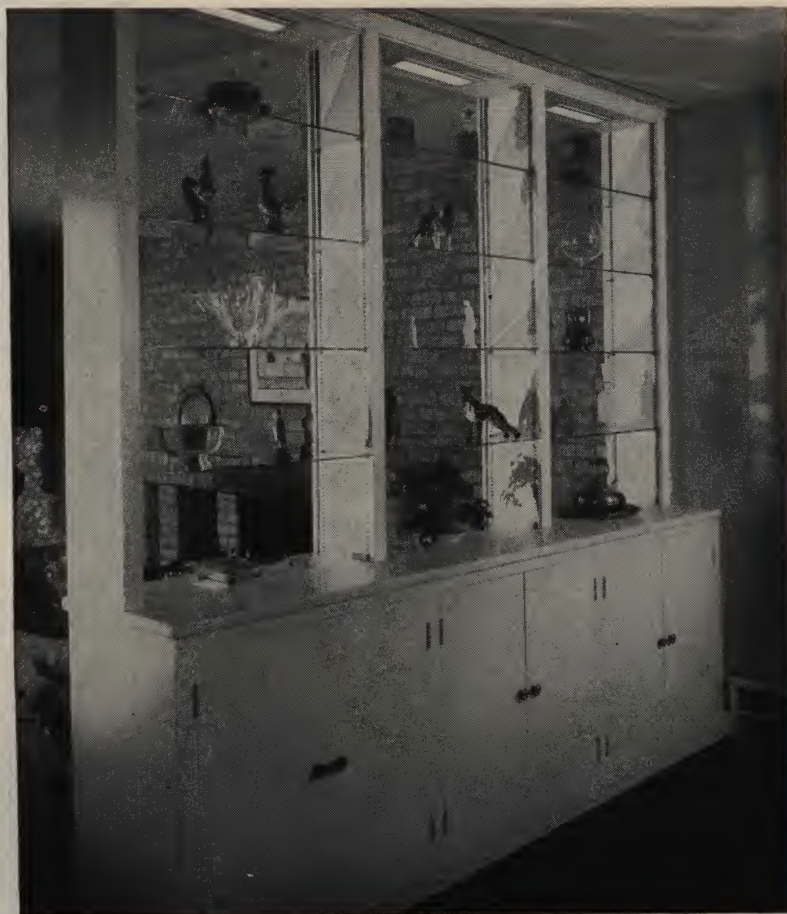
guide traffic, give you

privacy—it's all in how you use them

You don't have to be an expert at long division to catch on to the advantages of some of these room dividers. Their primary function is to separate two rooms or two different areas without interfering too much with the feeling of space in small quarters. The degree of division is up to you, depending on what you want them to do.

Most of the ones we illustrate are carpenter-built, require no great cabinet-making skill. An unusual texture is often very effective, and combinations of material can be very handsome. To retain a feeling of openness when actually you're closing off an area, you should have some device through which light can pass, or through which you can see—it might be glass, a bamboo screen, wooden louvers, a simple trellis.

To gain privacy at the front door: front entrance lets directly into the living room, but this divider breaks the view, screens the occupants. Shelves hold plants, books, ornaments. R. O. Steffen's home



To open up a vista: this partition defines living and dining area, yet does not interrupt feeling of space. Good storage below for tableware, glass shelves above for displaying your treasures. The Louis Roens' home



To divert traffic, save wear and tear: this partition helps channel traffic from front door (straight ahead) into living-room area (off right) instead of through dining area. Bernard Garbutt's home



Built-ins

for Bedding

- When those precious cubic feet of space can work *for* instead of *against* you, why have a do-nothing dust trap under a bed? A drawer under a box spring and mattress holds pillows and quilts so your bed can be tidier by day. It also is an ideal spot for out-of-season storage. This one is in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Reid, Jr.



Building costs are higher, basements are fewer—and there's more gear to store every year!

So look for wasted wall space, and build your storage in there.

A foot or so "stolen" from the length of a room can provide an attic's worth of storage in a floor-to-ceiling unit

for Music and Books

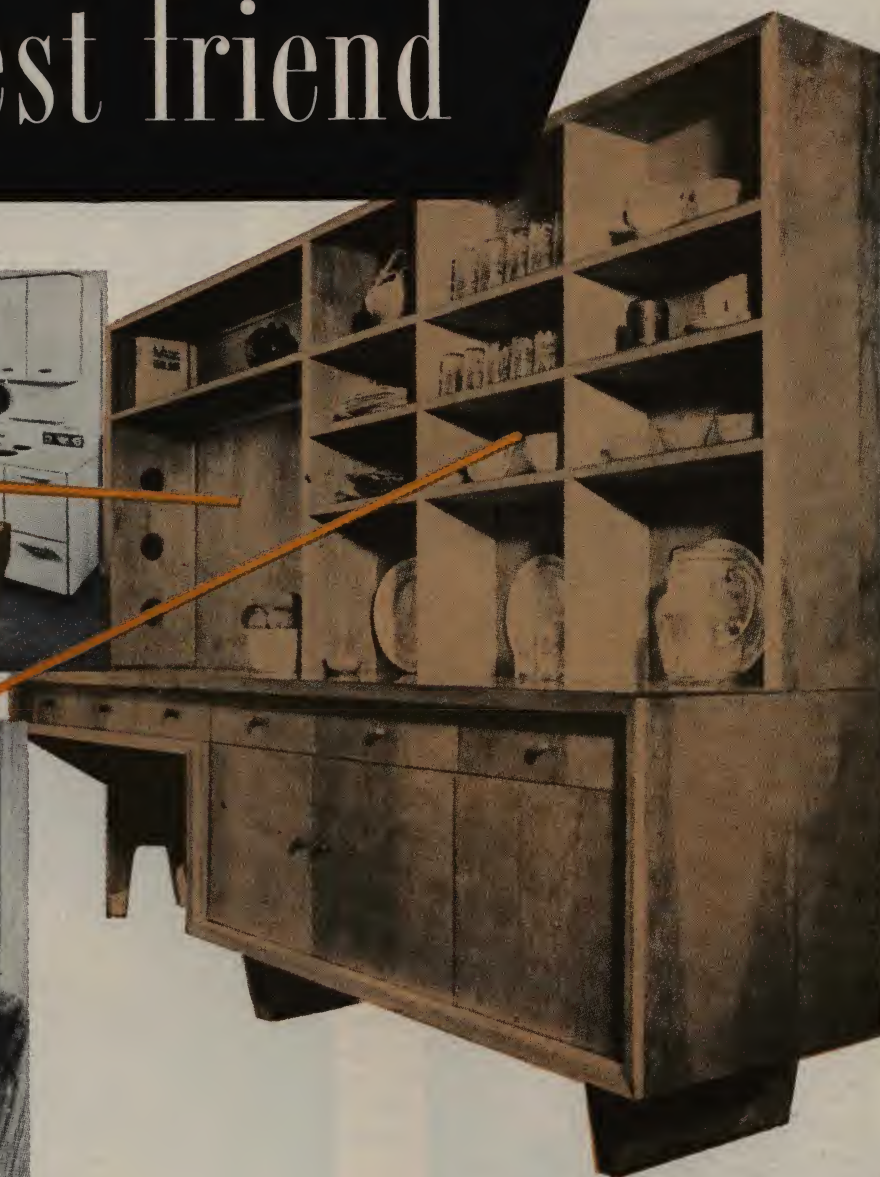
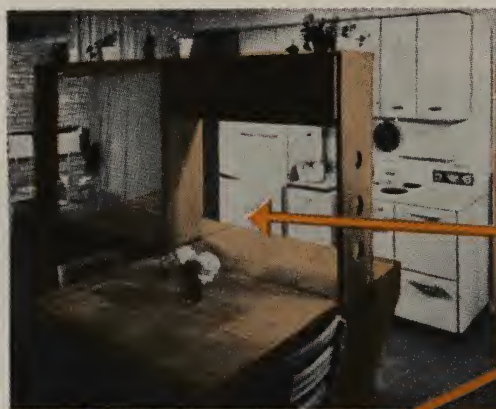
- In the days before built-ins, a space like this would have been furnished with a decorative table and a couple of chairs. But see what a wall-long built-in can do with very little floor space. There's a cabinet for a radio-phonograph and a whole collection of records; there's a storage cabinet, too; and, of course, there's a ceiling-high bookcase. What's more, the built-in "furnishes" the wall, "drapes" the window, displays the pretty things you'd put on a table—and the cornice which ties it together provides an excellent place to install concealed lighting. A companion built-in flanks the door on the other side. Home of Dr. J. Benton Egee.



for Linens

- What goes on at the top of your staircase? In most homes there would just be a rail where the Harry Knights built this handsome cabinet, ready to hold linens for bedrooms and bath—and to free the linen closet for dozens of other storage jobs.

are a girl's best friend



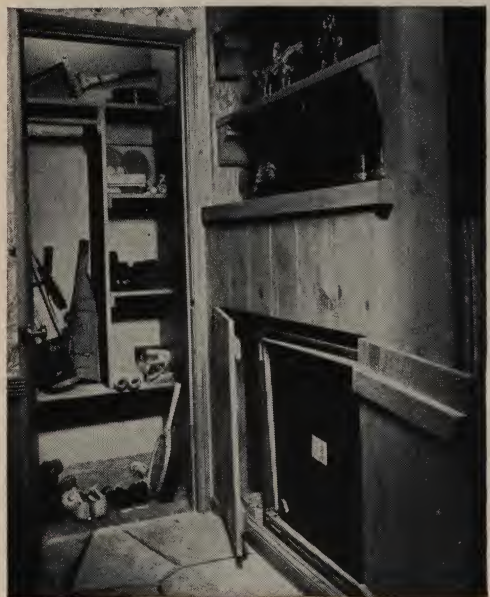
for Table Settings



• If only for the decorative drama it creates, this built-in, in the home of the William Wieners, would earn its keep. Its fluted-glass sliding doors play back every light in the room, and contrast effectively with the walls' mahogany paneling. But such a shallow cabinet, which requires no floor space to speak of, is most useful as a fumble-free place in which to store good glassware in safety.

• With clever modern designing, a built-in storage unit often replaces a conventional wall. The one shown above does even better, for this exceptional divider between a living room and kitchen occupies little more space than a wall would, but it is a complete dining room itself. It is easy to use three times a day, but so planned that it frees the dining-room space for living-room use between meals. On the living-room side, it is a partially mirrored wall. On the kitchen side, it offers all of the cupboard, drawer, and shelf space you would find in the average dining-room buffet, server, and china cabinet together—and it adds badly needed counter space to a small kitchen. A generous dining table comes into the act when the back of the unit nearest the fireplace pulls down to welcome a large family—and it vanishes as soon as the dishes are cleared away.

Below: To the casual eye, part of the pine paneling in living room. Open, it's a pass-through and snack bar between kitchen and living room. Panel door slides upward, disappears between walls. Glass shelves on either side of bar hold radio, glassware, mugs



Partition with a purpose. On living-room side it contains a drop-leaf desk with drawers, pigeonholes for correspondence. Door in back of Mary Pielow is entertainment closet, holds games, cards, poker chips. Opposite side of partition has file storage for magazines, books



Storage in the Chet Pielow's home was designed by decorator John Plange, builder O. M. King. Far left: Partition in entry has shallow cupboard for card-table storage, shelves above. Pielows are sports fans, had closet built especially for paraphernalia—fishing, golf, tennis, Ping-pong. Left: Closet beside fireplace has plenty of space for growing record collection, movie projector and screen, firewood



Left: Dressing room has built-in clothes hamper, shown in operation. Section of counter lifts, soiled clothing is popped in, removed via door below. Drawer is faked



Top: Passage between bedroom and bath had identical sliding-door wardrobes built in at either side, drawers for underclothing. Luggage goes up top. Above: Bed headboard, two 4-drawer chests, frame for box-spring are all one continuous built-in unit



Mary Pielow said: "I want a service porch as convenient, as attractive as my kitchen." She got it. Knotty pine cupboards built over her washer hold soap, starch, clothespins, etc. Deep, tall broom closet holds long-handled mops, dustpans, waxes



Top: 8-year-old Kirk Pielow has built-in desk, wardrobe closet, closet for toys and sport things. Desk contains record storage, holds small radio-phonograph. Above: 4-year-old Mary Pat's room has whole wall of closets. Lower rods are placed within easy reach of small child

STORAGE, STORAGE, EVERYWHERE!

Left: Children have own bathroom (door at left), own linen storage and hamper just outside the door. Right: Mary Pielow takes children's soiled clothing, sorts it for laundry. Freshly laundered linens and clothing are sorted on long counter, stored in topside cupboards





ROOM DIVIDER \$28

BOOKCASE-END TABLE \$10



KITCHEN SHOW-OFF \$23



TV-PHONOGRAPH CABINET \$50



Need more storage space, but have no home workshop?
Here are some pieces you can build anyhow! Start
with office shelf units, treat them with paint
and materials cut to measure at a lumberyard—
and improvise handsomely, right in the living room



Storage units from steel office shelves



Doors open, the "chest" at right reveals TV, phonograph, records—and room to spare. Office shelf unit that made it possible was 75" x 36" x 24" size, mounted on a 2" x 4" frame on casters so it could swing away from the wall for better sight or sound. Back and sides are covered with wallboard bolted to inside of the steel frame. Doors are wallboard, covered with basswood blinds and framed by 1½" wood strips

Is there anybody who can't use just a little more storage space? In the kitchen, den, living room—in fact, all over the house. Let these tip you off; make a good thing of plain steel shelf units, the kind they use in the offices, priced at "next to nothing." Try your own improvisations on the themes that we show—they're not big "productions." Because they knock down for easy shipment, we recommend them to families "on the move"; and because they are subject to very easy changes, they are excellent for young people on the way up financially, for a room divider made for a honeymoon apartment can be transformed later on, just with paint, into an elegant unit for a kitchen, den, or nursery.

The steel shelving at the heart of the matter sells for almost a song, lasts a lifetime, is light in weight but strong and firmly supported by X braces. Office supply stores carry the units we used (the five-shelfer costs about \$19; the three-shelfer, about \$9), but you can also order almost any variation in size. The "construction" we used involves little time and can go right on in your living room, for a screw-driver and hand drill are the principal tools, and materials required can be cut to measure at a lumberyard.

ROOM DIVIDER: Its skeleton is a five-shelf unit (72" high, 36" wide, 11½" deep). The \$28 cost also included the wallboard and perforated metal used to create the cupboards, plus the wood framing for the doors, and the paint. The X brace, lowered for concealment by the doors, gives necessary support to the structure. For "cupboard" part, cut perforated metal to fit inside the steel frame—on the ends, and across the back. Back the metal with wallboard cut the same size, and bolt both, simultaneously, to the frame. For doors, frame wallboard-backed punched metal with 1" x ½" wood strips. With a steel bit, drill holes into steel frame to accommodate bolts for door hinges. Paint—and choose paint color for good accent in the room.

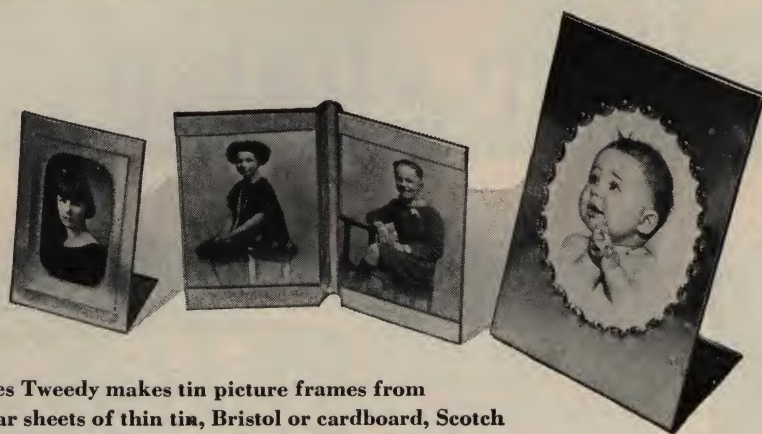
BOOKCASE-END TABLE: A great deal of table for the money, and one which will house oversized books, magazines, and even a radio. If you use the standard small unit (30" high, 30" wide, 11½" deep), a hacksaw will cut it down to correct height for your chair. Put the brace side toward the chair. (A pair of these with plywood top and sides can make a spacious pedestal desk to use until you can afford that Louis XVI number.)

KITCHEN SHOW-OFF: In a dated kitchen, this steel unit can steal the show, and inspire you to make an attractive picture of your everyday things. Back and sides are covered with peg board—cut to fit, bolted to the steel frame, and ready to give support to hanging pans, molds, or anything pretty.



A full-sized bed is tucked away in the Dick Dolph living room, sets flush into the wall, rolls out into the room on casters, slides under kitchen floor, which is raised up from living-room level. Ingenious, inconspicuous

A bamboo screen, designed by M. Hamburger, is highly effective when used in a casual or rustic-type room. Make one for yourself or have your carpenter put one together for you, using your own imagination regarding the size and the top design



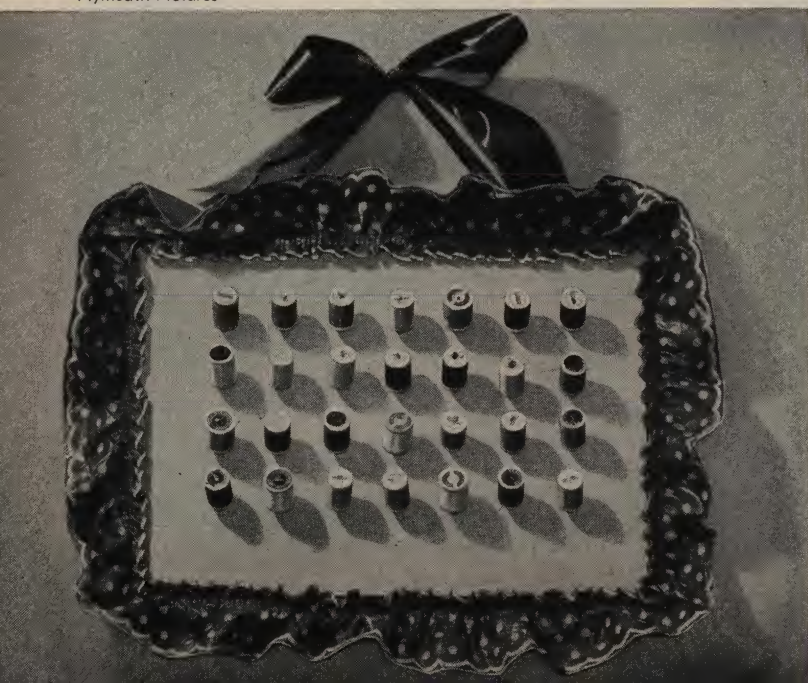
Mrs. James Tweedy makes tin picture frames from rectangular sheets of thin tin, Bristol or cardboard, Scotch tape to hold pictures in place, a piece of picture glass

Good Ideas

Keep your spools of cotton in plain view, easily available. A plain breadboard, or evenly cut wooden surface, with nails evenly spaced, holds each color, tacked-on ruffle, large bow to hang

Plymouth Pictures

Edna Wood Grier's dainty and crisp idea for a window in a child's room with a taffeta ribbon laced through scalloped cornice board, tied in a bow. Matching ribbon edges ruffles. Cornice board of plywood





When folded against the wall, the legs of this train table and bulletin board combination become neat dividing posts. Surface of board, covered with dark green burlap, is also bottom of the train table. First carpentry attempted by Wells D. Burnette



Three-year-old Mark Burnette of Deerfield, Illinois, manipulates the electric train which he operates with the transformer fastened to the table. All playtime equipment is placed on the shelves when the table folds up on the wall. Excellent use of space

Worth Copying

Out-of-the-ordinary suggestions to give a new look

to your windows, your pictures,
a smart touch to the same old things

Headboard frame made from top of a roll-top desk, which may be found in junkyard. Box springs and mattress bed is mounted on legs with no footboard; headboard is fastened to wall. A. P. Catlin



Useful desk made from two-tiered filing cabinet by Wm. Hart. One plywood length, depth of cabinet, narrow piece plus leg for typewriter stand. A sheet of glass will give an extra-good look

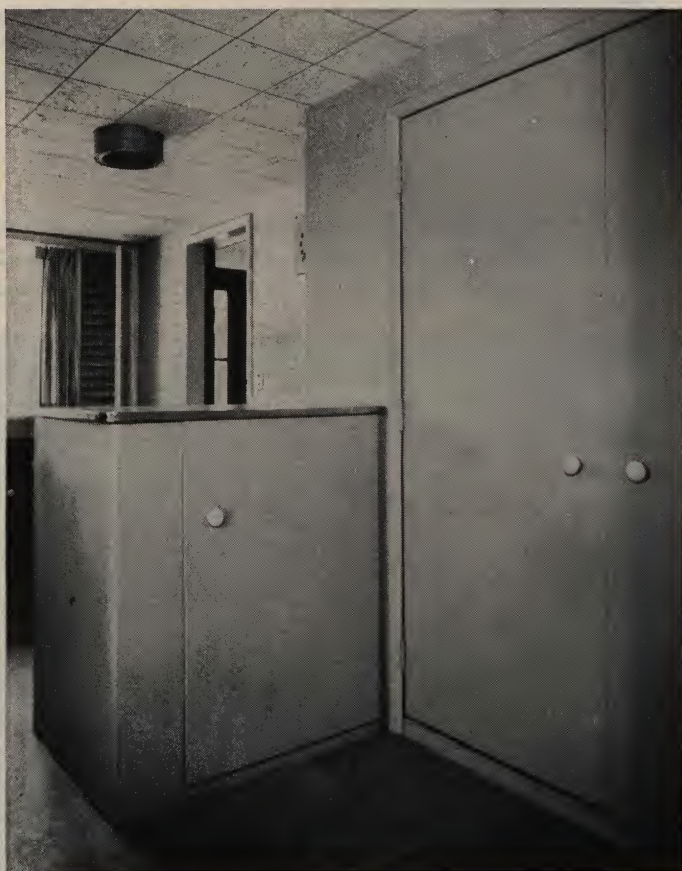


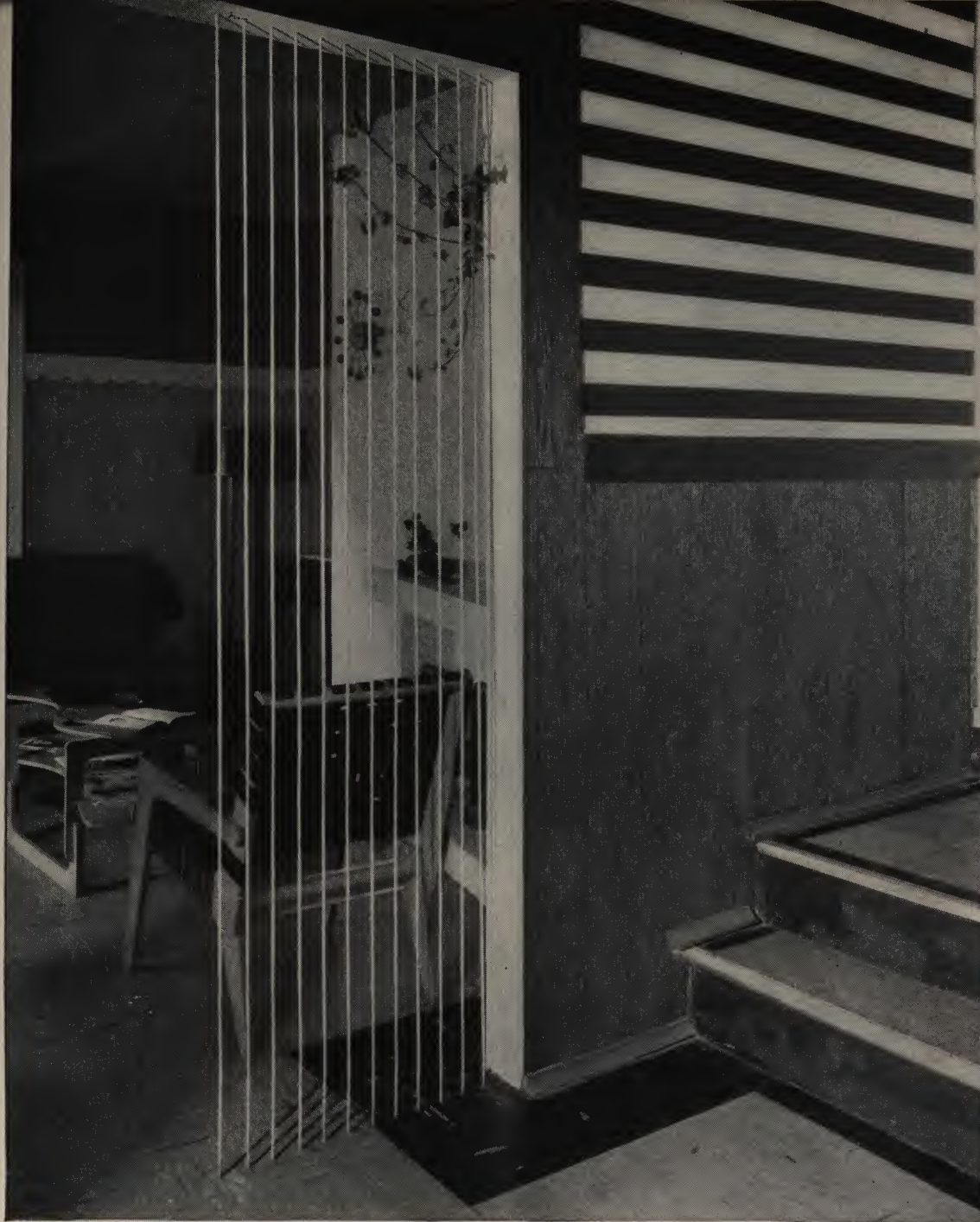
"Why didn't I think of that?"



Here's how to throw direct light on Lady Luck if you sometimes play at your dining table. An extra socket in this hanging student lamp is masked by a screw-on cap when not in use. Before the game, put in a bulb and shade it. In this case, socket is in center of fixture and shade is anchored by chains, fitted with picture hooks, which attach it to fixture's horizontal bar. If your ceiling is high, put the fixture on a telescopic vertical rod so you can lower it when you want to.

If you walked into that foyer at the left, below, you wouldn't dream it had taken over a basement's roles. But the second picture shows that it has: a heater hides in what appears to be a copious coat closet; a washing machine nests cleverly in that built-in. It doesn't look improvised because the built-in echoes closet's simple flush doors and round pulls





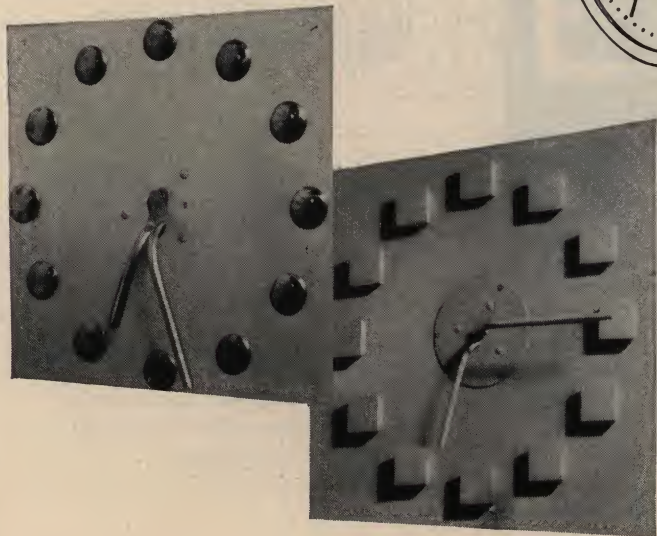
You needn't descend from your ladder to get that other tool if you clamp a tool tray to the ladder's folding shelf. Cake or roasting pan makes one. It's a safety measure as well

Taut rope "curtain" makes wide opening look narrower. You could hold it in place with two plywood planks in which you drill holes to accommodate the ropes. Knot ropes on underside of one, and on top of the other; then nail first to floor and the second to top of doorway. In the example we show, holes were drilled in floor itself and in a removable wood strip which tops doorway

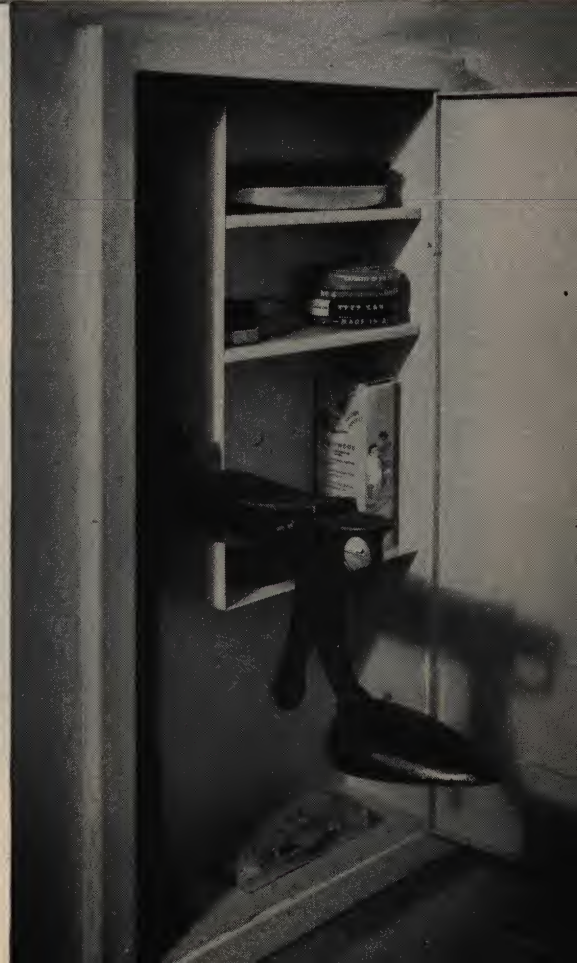
This shoeshine closet not only has ample shelves for gear, but a professional shoe-holder as well, so you can use both hands as you polish away. Build it into a space between studs

Make an electric wall clock for about \$5. "Works" can be the cheapest electric clock. Remove the case, face, and hands, and place machinery behind wall panel.

Drill hole in panel for clock shank to come through. Hands are aluminum tube, split and drilled to attach to shank



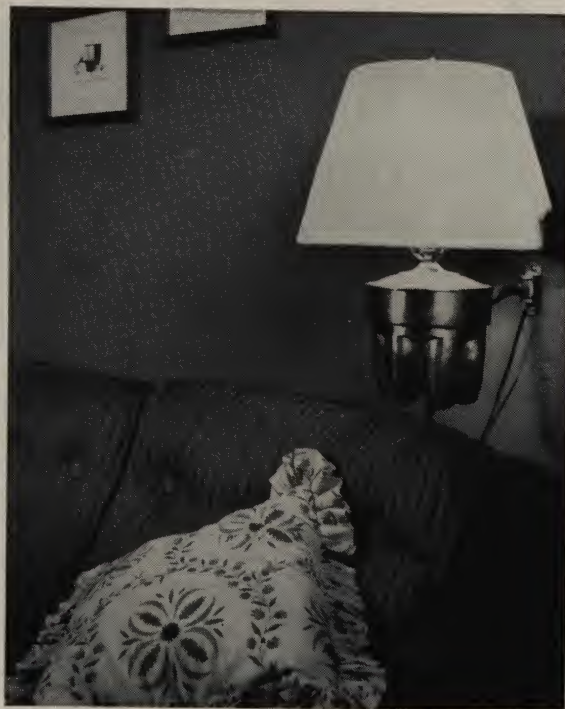
When works are in panel and hands attached, mark location of numerals by drawing clock face to size on paper, taping paper to wall, making small mark on wall for each hour. "Numerals" are anything from buttons to bows—drawer pulls, playing cards—what have you?



Idea for windows in beach house or development house with high windows: Hinged wooden panels are set on track at top of frame, fold back like shutters to admit full light, can be arranged to combat glare and let in just a little light. Paint them a bright color and they take the place of curtains. Equip them with series bolts, and they're practically burglar-proof. The Richard Emisons' residence



Mrs. George Ross, a professional decorator, made this unusual bracket lamp from an old copper pudding mold, placed it at end of sofa on a swivel arm. It is fitted with a brass top plate, brass finials. Paper shade is wrapped neatly inside and out with wool yarn



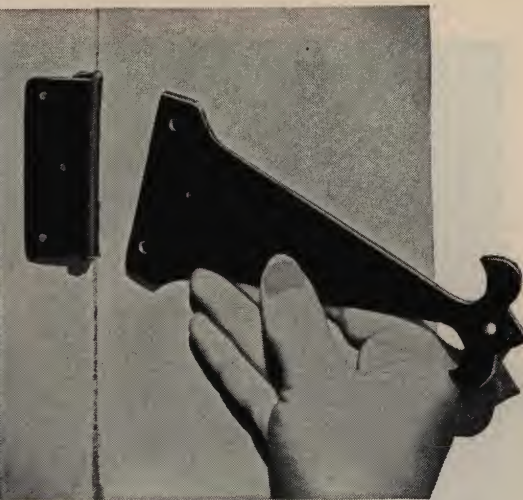
"Why didn't I think of that?"



Barbecuers, ahoy! Here's an idea for an inexhaustible supply of paper tablecloths. Wooden box on patio storage wall holds big roll of ordinary brown wrapping paper. Old saw blades on edge of box tear paper neatly. Pull off as much as you want, use it, burn it with trash



A busy lazy-Susan arrangement for nuts, bolts, and screws. Wooden frame holds a vertical length of hoe-handle to which are fixed round wooden disks. Mason jar tops are screwed to under side of disks. Jars, which hold supplies, screw into their own tops. Give it a whirl and the whole works is easy to see and reach

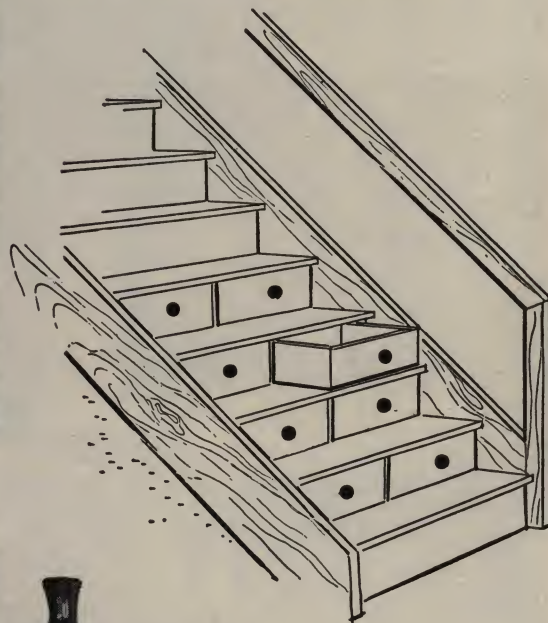


Bright idea fools many, costs pennies. Your cabinets needn't go without handsome Colonial black iron hinges because they're hand-wrought and expensive. Make 'em yourself out of cheap pressed wood—trace the pattern on the board, jig-saw it neatly, drill the holes, paint it flat black, screw it into place—and admire!



Upright piano doesn't seem to fit in your new modern room? This one's neatly concealed by a handsome blond case that looks like built-in storage. Four satiny birch doors unfold on strong piano hinges when the music mood strikes, and you'll be all ready to play. A. Quincy Jones, A.I.A., architect

There's more storage than meets the eye lurking in space beneath your seldom-used attic stairs. Gwendoline Spang sends this idea: Build in drawers, a whole flock of them, beneath the treads. A fine place to tuck away winter things with a few moth balls around for protection



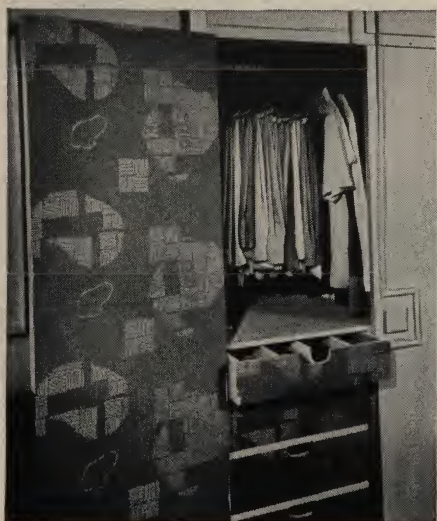
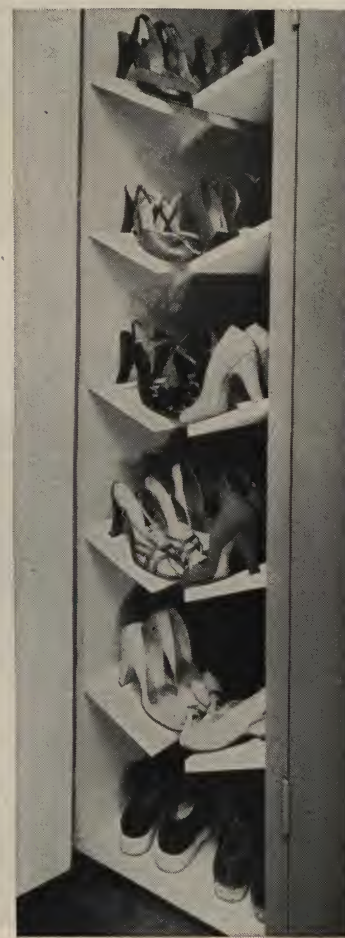
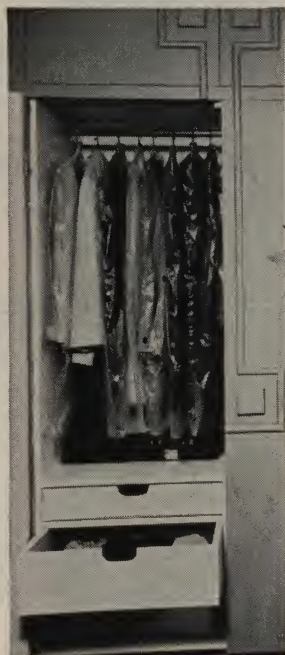
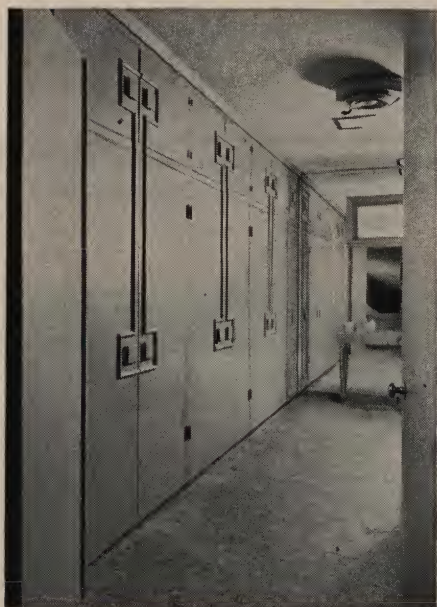
R. L. Conhaim made this simple but good-looking bookshelf to hang over his bed. A pair of fluorescent tubes hide behind the apron, give good reading light. Fine idea to copy and hang over your child's desk





A STORAGE WALL CAN LOOK LIKE A HANDSOME OLD CHEST: This one, at the dining end of a Texas living room, resembles a Spanish antique, but was carpenter-built. Its imposing appearance results from clever, not costly, tricks. What looks like hand-carving is merely double rows of flat molding. Within each square, an oblong pull adds to the decorative effect. One section conceals a pass-through to the kitchen, and below it are trays for table linens

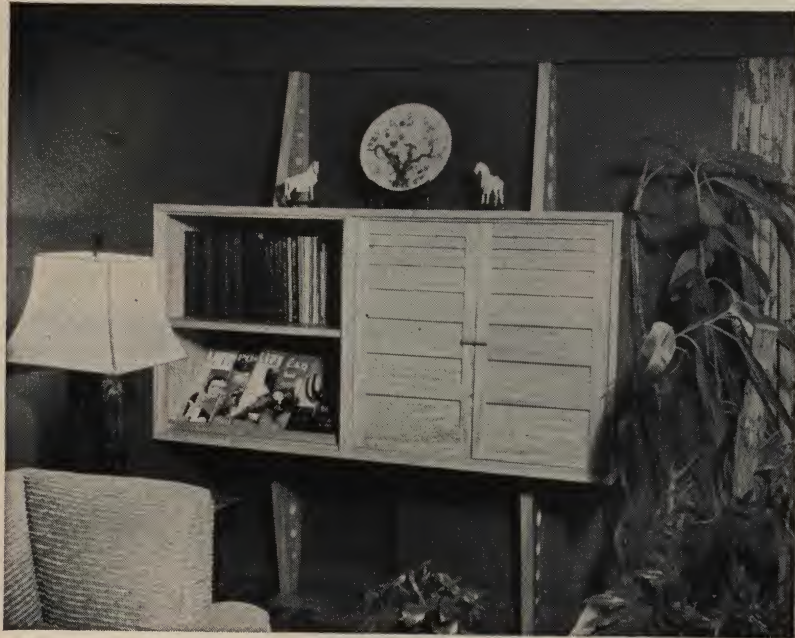
Storage Walls NEEDN'T LOOK FUNCTIONAL



INTERIORS CAN BE DECORATIVE: In this storage wall in a dressing room, the interiors of the doors have been treated to the wallpaper which appears elsewhere in the bedroom. The woodwork is painted a pale aqua—the paper is deep plum with bold aqua motif. Top drawer of man's built-in chest is divided to hold ties and handkerchiefs

THEY CAN LOOK AS WELL AS THEY BEHAVE: Storage walls of the type shown above and at the far left are not inexpensive, even when carpenter-built—but the man who owns one will tell you that they are worth every cent that they cost. However, too often, the good planning stops with the interiors, when a little more thought, and very little more cash, can make them as attractive as this one. The trick? A simple motif of half-round molding plus square door pulls to give great distinction to ordinary flush doors. Interiors were planned for milord and milady, with places to hang shirts, suits, and dresses, each measured so that no space is wasted below them. Carefully calculated compartments were made especially for hats and for handbags. The shoe rack has sloping shelves for better visibility and accessibility.

1^{Doz.} Good Little Ideas



AIR CONDITIONERS NEEDN'T DISRUPT YOUR DÉCOR: They can coddle your comfort and be easy on the eyes as well if you take the trouble to house them in harmony with your room. For example, study the room unit above, designed by Tschudi Lockwood for the E. J. Wanlesses of Houston, Texas



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: When the doors are closed, this looks like any attractive wall cabinet with open shelf for books, a rack for magazines, space above for bibelots, and a closed cupboard. But an air conditioner hides behind those smart doors, made of louvers to give air the free circulation it needs

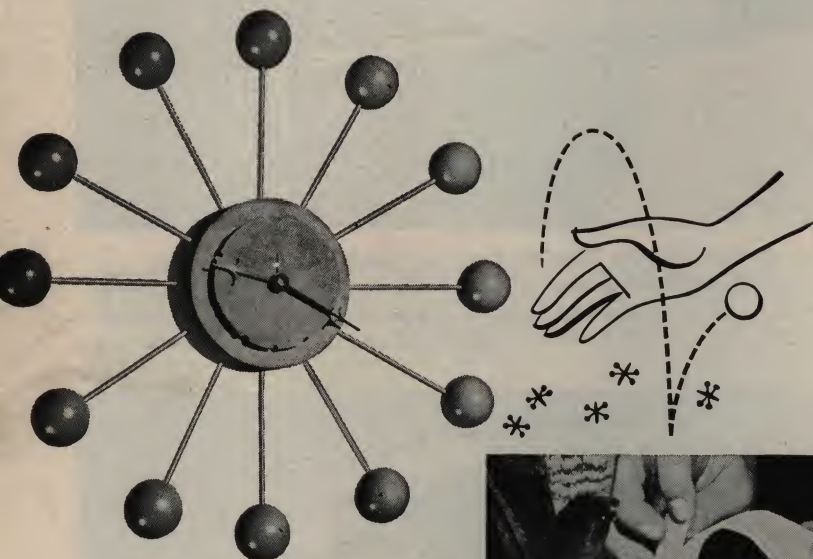
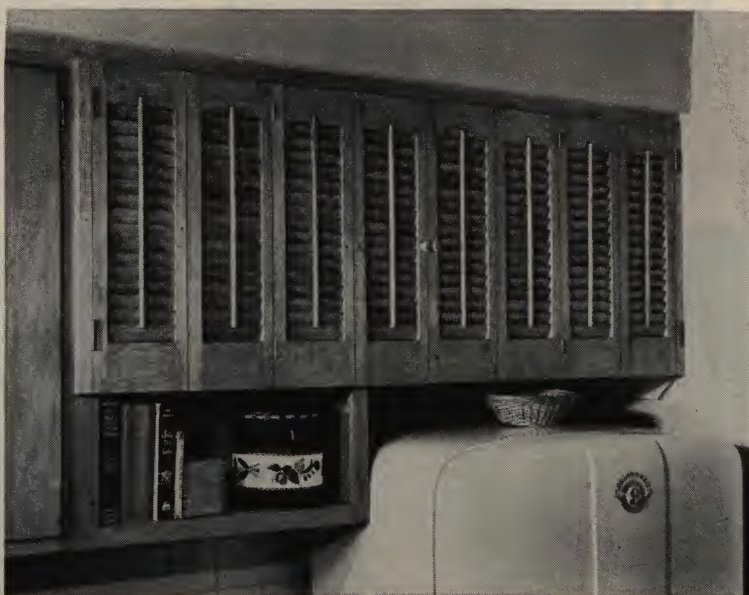


THIS IS A MUSIC ROOM: Most of the time, it's only the dining area of the Charles Pyke's home in California, but when they found it difficult to place their piano, they just put the space under the staircase to work, as we show in the picture at your right. Don't waste that space under your stairs!

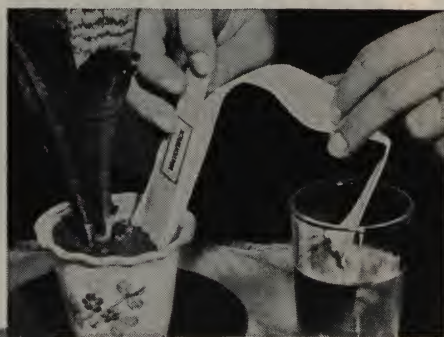


THERE'S ROOM FOR AN UPRIGHT UNDER MOST STAIRCASES: When practice time comes, or the family gathers 'round for an old-fashioned singsong, the doors open up to reveal an upright piano. Sheet music is also kept under these stairs—on shelves in a small cupboard to the right of piano compartment

DOES YOUR KITCHEN DRAW A BLANK HERE? In most older kitchens, no use was made of the space over the refrigerator. Now you can buy cabinets to use there, but if they don't fit your scheme, surround the refrigerator with shelves handsomely hidden with shutters, as did the Donald Hallidays of Chappaqua, N.Y.



THIS WAS AN OLD ALARM: E. Capoferri inserted old clock into center section of large roll of paper tape. Numerals are jack balls stuck on pointed brass rods



VACATION CARE FOR PLANTS: While you're away, a wick device such as this keeps soil around your plants moist. Such wicks come ready made, 6 in a box

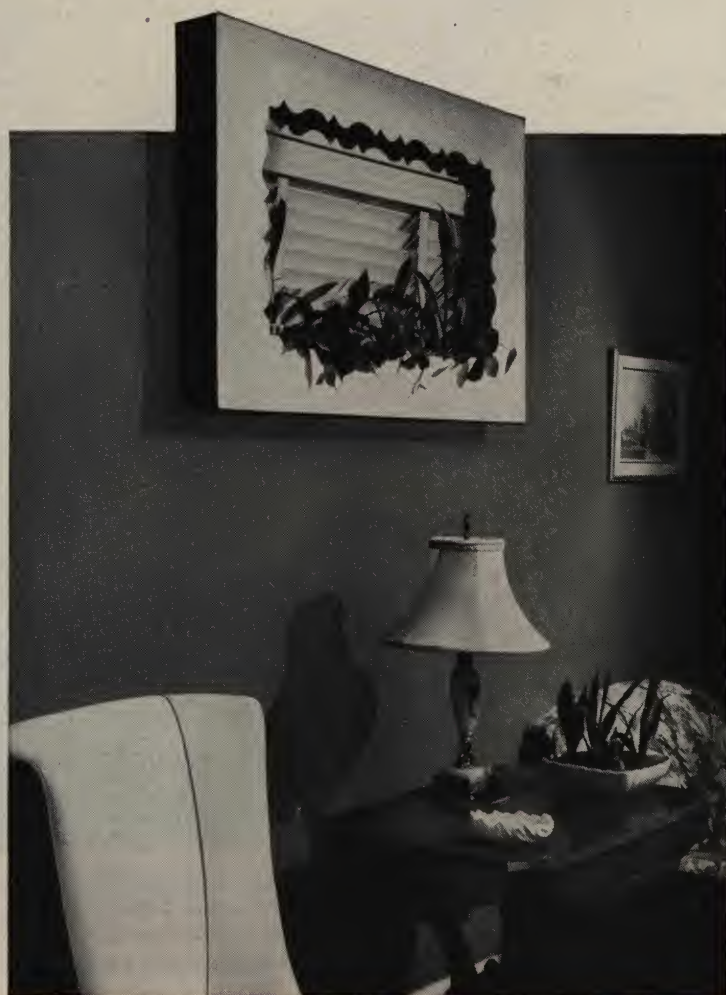


SUCCULENT KEG: Used as outdoor furniture, a whitewashed keg can be a garden in itself: bore 2-in. holes in sides, fill keg with good soil, set succulent plants in holes

WINDOW PICTURE: Make a good thing of a high, tiny window. Lois Hurley, of Racine, Wisc., gave hers a Venetian blind, framed it in a shadow box, and filled the box with plants

Good Little Ideas (Begins on page 57)

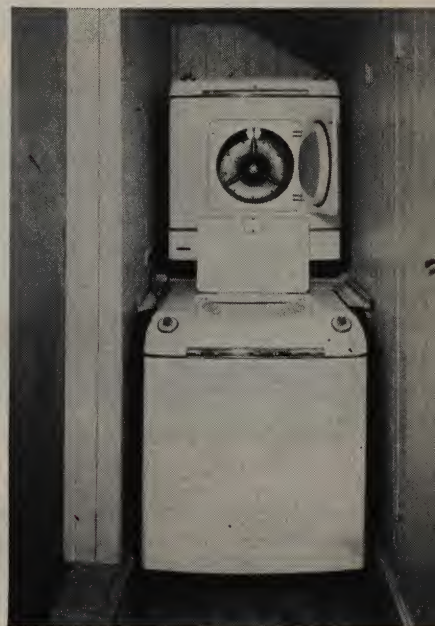
IT'S NOT THE BUNK—it's the way it's designed that counts. In the Tarshis home, in Portland, Ore., recessed bunks, complete with drawers, turn a hobby room into good sleeping quarters. Notice the decorative way the panels are set, and see how well an Oriental looks amid all this rusticity





IMPROVISED DRESSING ROOM works very well: The James Noels of Houston created it by placing double closets in a passage leading from master bedroom to garden. You can see how, by opening the near doors, they can block it off from the bedroom. The same thing happens on the far side to shut it in from the garden

TALL-STORY LAUNDRY: There wasn't room for both washer and dryer, so the F. Clare Hinkleys of Glencoe, Ill., stacked them. Washer, on bottom, projects so its top can open; dryer is installed on firmly supported shelf over the washer



SORTING "DOORS": Instead of opening out, two doors of the Ike Robinson's linen closet drop down handily, this way. There's nothing to keep you from using such a compartment as an extra desk, either. Architect: Thos. McCleary, Houston

PHONE PEN: They didn't try to hide it, but the telephone hides itself on that end shelf of this corner table in the Wanless house in Houston, and there is a good compartment for telephone books below it. Designed by Tschudi Lockwood





Bright Ideas

Houdini, who knew all about mirrors, would make small modern rooms look twice their



In small modern homes, architects have gone a long way toward solving many actual physical space problems presented by the living-room "dining area." What is more difficult however, is incorporating a feeling of graciousness into the few square feet such areas are usually allotted. Here, just that was

accomplished with mirrors. See in the Before view at the left how a small wall was broken up by a door leading into the kitchen. By using floor-to-ceiling mirrors on the entire wall, including the door, you have the illusion of a large dining room, "decorated" by the living room's image—and the living room seems much larger. In the bedroom at the right, the mirror on the wall behind the dressing table not only does its bit for milady, but seems to double the size of the small bedroom as well. Here the light and open construction of the table helps the mirror to do its sleight-of-hand—a heavier piece would have blocked out too much of it



Through the magic of mirrors you can create the illusion of more space in a room than is actually there, plus the delightful reflection of twice the beauty. Lights and beautiful furnishings duplicate themselves in two-fold array to open rooms that are too often restricted by the closeness of their walls. Placed to reflect the outdoors, through large undraped windows, the beauty of nature can be brought inside to blend in perfect harmony with the room's furnishings. Whether used as a large expanse or a smaller focal point, mirrors can do a job for you of enchanting trickery and practical efficiency, and there is hardly a room in the house in which one does not add an infinite amount of visual pleasure and decoration by their use. Here are some examples.



In newer houses, those spacious hallways are usually a thing of the

past because they waste too much costly square footage. But if the economics of having a long narrow tube of a passageway are sound, the aesthetics are not. In this case, mirrors on the sliding doors of a closet not only increase the apparent size of a hallway, but also help to enliven it with reflections. No depressive tunnel is this hallway with its mirror magic duplicate



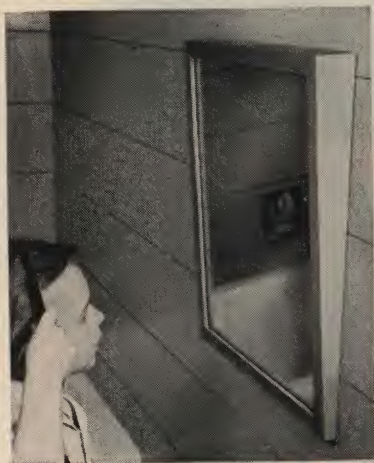
No, the walls weren't knocked down to get that illusion of space you see. It was created by setting rectangles of mirror above



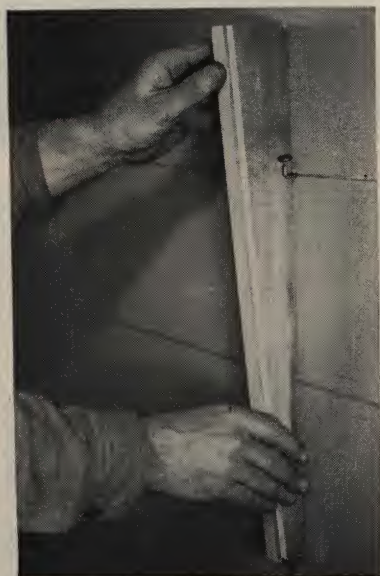
panels of plywood, and framing the whole thing in black lacquered frames. Instead of walls, they look like partial partitions, and you'd swear that there are rooms beyond. The restricted feeling caused by the blank walls in the Before picture at the left has disappeared entirely—all due to good use of panels of mirror

With Mirrors

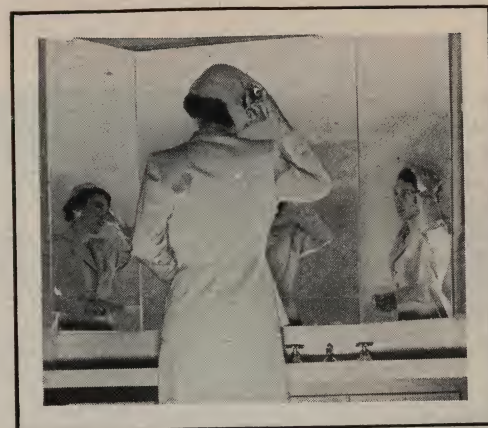
approve the way modern decorators use them to size and do many other tricks for your home



This mirror, hung in the bathroom, is just child high and slanted toward the floor. Its height will encourage neatness in young fry who can't get a good gander at themselves in adult-high mirrors. Hooks holding move up with growth of child. Mom can use for viewing her hemlines

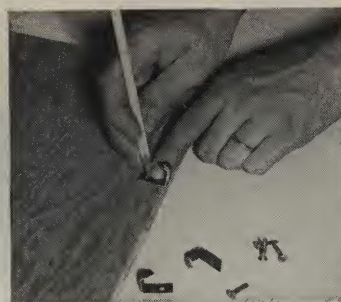
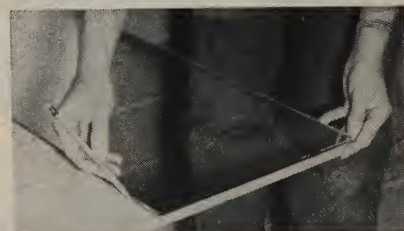


A glass wall doesn't necessarily "open" up a room unless the room's decoration in some way plays it up. In the Before picture below, the light walls and bulky furniture create a feeling of clutter. In the remodeled version above, the dark walls lead the eye directly out of doors, and the mirror rectangles play back the light that the glass wall brings in. The calm and inviting atmosphere is enhanced by airy chairs of string and copper, and by sheer reed shades over the glass

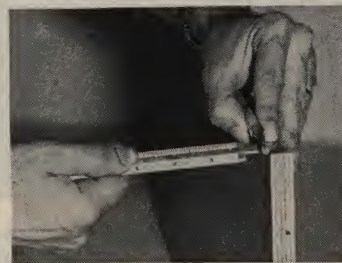


Here's a three-panel mirror for bedroom or bath to delight the lady who wants to look her best from all angles

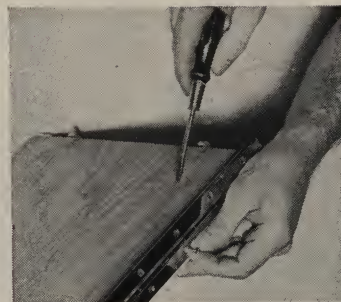
Purchase $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. thick mirrors from plate glass concern. Have them cut the glass to size and round off the edges. Use mirrors to mark the plywood to exact size and then cut



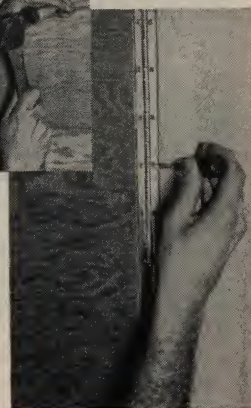
Mirrors are fastened to plywood backing with U-shaped brackets sold at hardware stores. Make recess in edges of plywood so that brackets will fit flush with surface. Install two brackets at top and bottom, one at side



Side panels are fastened to center section with piano hinges. Hinges should be set $\frac{1}{4}$ in. beyond edge of plywood so that they will come flush with face of mirror. Install hinges to side panels and drill holes for hinge screw in center section. Use long wood screws to give ample support



Center section of plywood should be nailed to wall before mirror is inserted. Side pieces are then secured to center piece with hinges. Cover edges of plywood with masking tape and strips of hardwood. Paint the back side of the side pieces to match the walls of the room



Thanks to the handsome paneled snack bar which serves as dining area, work counter, and room divider, a complete kitchen was tucked prettily into a small corner of the living room of this house



This snack bar is more than a great convenience—it acts like an architectural member, dividing living room from kitchen. You can treat it like furniture, upholstering it in plastic to match your color scheme



How smart can a snack bar be? At the left see the insides of the counter above. Instead of being wasted, it cleverly holds table-setting materials and bulky objects



Snack bars can be pull-up affairs, like the one below. At left, see how it looks when it isn't in use. It appears to be a cabinet door, but is topped with impervious plastic



Panel which pulls up to form this one-seater is attached to cabinet by a piano hinge. This quick breakfast spot is a blessing to anyone who is apt to breakfast at odd hours

for Short Orders

Just because you don't happen to be planning a whole brand-new kitchen is no reason why you can't enjoy the benefits of the kitchen snack bar. Illustrated here you'll find a one-passenger eating spot that pulls up or disappears, a one-seater at the end of some cabinets, and a snack bar for two cosily tucked into a pint-size kitchenette. Or, if you are planning some real remodeling, some of the other more ambitious examples should inspire you, for most of them do double duty and lend themselves to better, more convenient arrangements than the cupboards they replace. One of these should fill the bill nicely.

Here's a honey for those who think their kitchen can't provide space for an eating counter—it's just a small extension of the work counter, large enough to nest a single stool and a grateful occupant. It is hard by the phone, a perfect place for planning, for midmorning coffee, or for lunching alone



In the old days, a plain kitchen table would have occupied the space where that talented, decorative construction now stands. Open shelves which grow to the ceiling hold complete everyday china and glass, easily reached from either side. There's a cupboard below—and there's plenty of room for the snackers

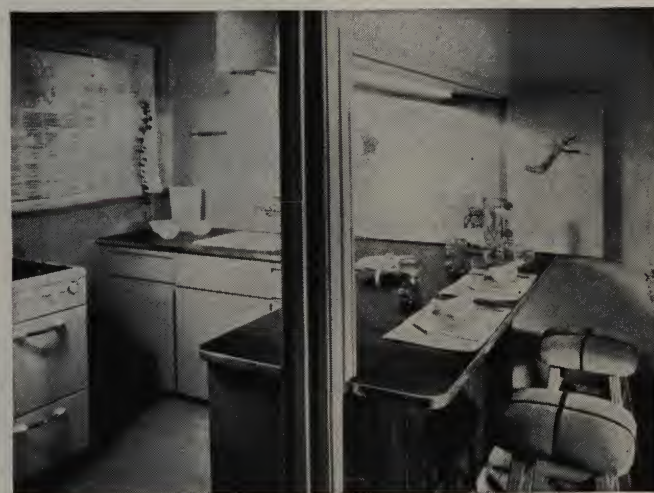
This king-size kitchen eating spot is formed by standard base cabinets. Its plastic top was built to provide knee room on the other side, while rounded ends, which prevent accidents, are turned to decorative advantage



The most natural place for a snack bar can be the least obvious. In many houses a narrow space like this would just be wasted. Here it's not only an attractive snacking spot, but its gay skirt can hide a bonus of storage space as well



A peninsula can save both steps and space. This one is formed by a sink and dishwasher on one side, and a good snack bar on the other. Rounded shelves hold small appliances near the work area for a step-saving convenience that is peculiar to any peninsula of this type



The pass-through between kitchen and dining area is one of our wisest step-savers. It's a work area and a place for family meals. Keep table-setting materials in cabinets on its kitchen side, and you set and serve it almost without effort



The snack bar need be neither an architectural member nor a major piece of furniture. A plain strong shelf in a nook will do nicely



Dividing kitchen from breakfast room, this snack bar with its tile top is little wider than a cabinet. Useful storage space is below



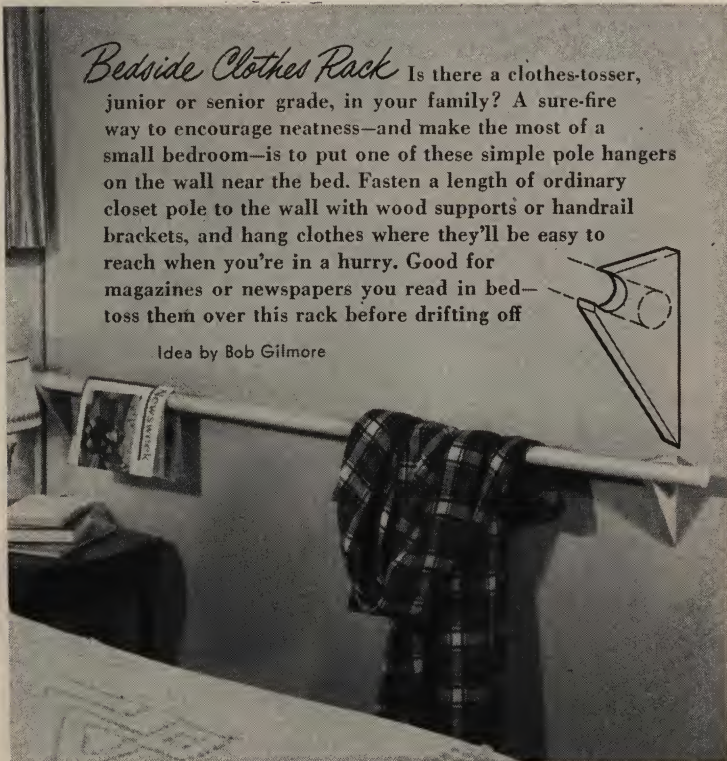
This one is tucked into small kitchenette. There was no space for conventional stools so swing-outs were devised to hinge on the wall

Little Cash Big Dividends

Bedside Clothes Rack

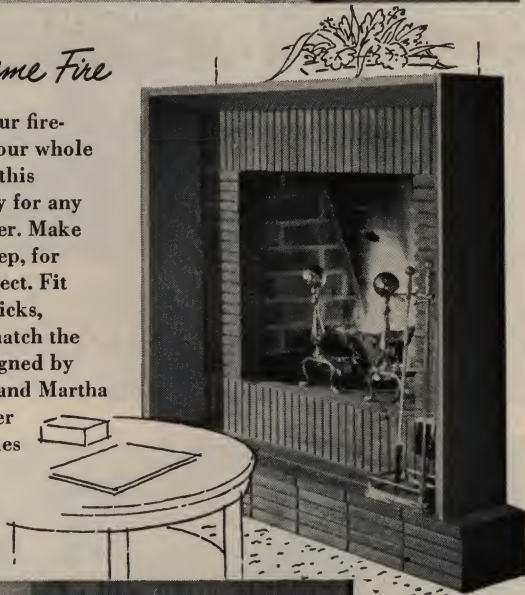
Is there a clothes-tosser, junior or senior grade, in your family? A sure-fire way to encourage neatness—and make the most of a small bedroom—is to put one of these simple pole hangers on the wall near the bed. Fasten a length of ordinary closet pole to the wall with wood supports or handrail brackets, and hang clothes where they'll be easy to reach when you're in a hurry. Good for magazines or newspapers you read in bed—toss them over this rack before drifting off

Idea by Bob Gilmore



Picture-frame Fire

Individualize your fireplace and give your whole room a lift with this wood frame, easy for any amateur carpenter. Make it 12 or 14 in. deep, for a shadow-box effect. Fit it close to the bricks, and paint it to match the woodwork. Designed by Edward Fickett and Martha Weaver of Barker Bros., Los Angeles

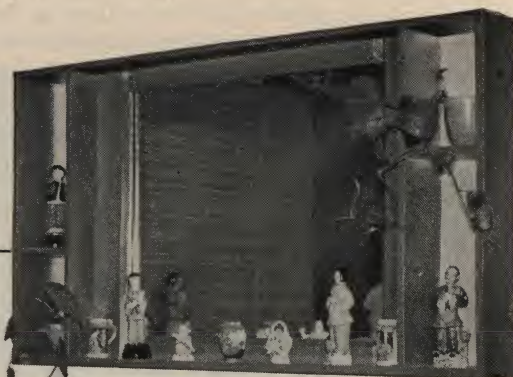
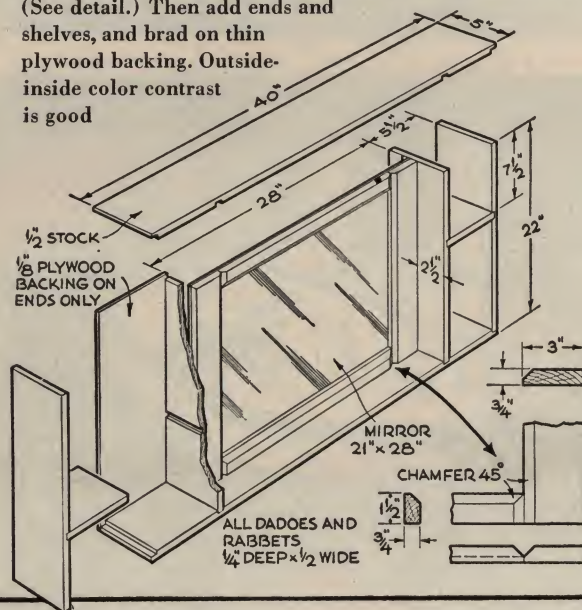


Keen holder for knives

Here's a gadget that takes up little space, costs practically nothing, and keeps your sharp knives right at hand—safely! Around the cutting board in the kitchen is a raised portion, neatly slotted to hold knives—out of the way, right in sight

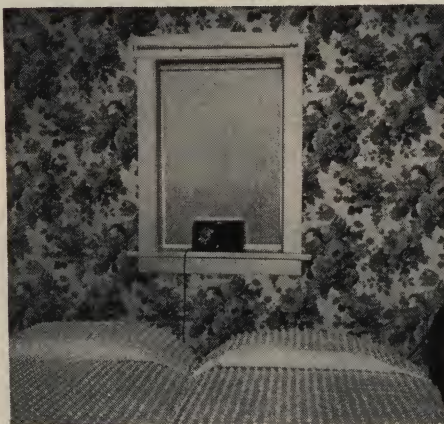
Play up a Mirror

Modernize an old mirror or play up a new one as R. J. De Cristoforo did. Shadow-box frame makes a fine place to display your treasures. It's best to leave off the small shelves and end pieces until inner mirror frame is nailed and glued in place with strips $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " molding. (See detail.) Then add ends and shelves, and brad on thin plywood backing. Outside-inside color contrast is good

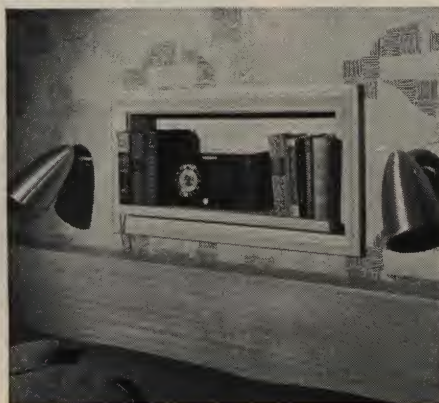


Odd window into built-in

BEFORE Small window over twin beds in the E. Kart house made the room drafty. Shade was always pulled because there was plenty of light without it



AFTER Old window sill is now a shelf at the bottom of transformed window—now a handy built-in. Blocking out of window eliminates draft; light fixtures on either side of frame make reading in bed comfortable



So High for Small Fry



Grandmother peeks in one door while one of the grandchildren comes through the wall aperture from the room next door. Mrs. Walker is standing on the basement floor, giving an indication of the height where playroom floor starts. Furniture is scaled to small bodies. Dividing wall is of building block, and pipes under house are still left free in case of repairs



Time for tea and crumpets! In this case, it's ice cream and cake, and four little girls are having a fine party. What a wonderful place for a Christmas tree, too. Notice the tiny scale of chairs

Here's a wonderful way to put to good use that unexcavated space beneath your house. That's the section which is generally referred to as "crawl space" and ranges anywhere from two feet to six feet, enabling the plumber or carpenter to get under the house when anything goes wrong. Archie Walker of Minneapolis contrived two large playrooms for his grandchildren in this unused space, one for play furniture, the other for velocipede riding. The ceiling height is only five feet six inches, which is just right for children, but keeps the big folks out. A floor was laid, and a square aperture was cut between the rooms.

Mr. Walker, realizing that his dozen or so grandchildren would like nothing better than to be in a place all their own, installed a ladder entrance from the basement, with rungs which will hold a child but are too light for an adult. Mother can watch from outside if she wishes, but that's as far as she can go. As a result, the children enjoy themselves with their toys and riding apparatus all in one place, their parents know just where they are, and sensible use is made of otherwise wasted space.

Perhaps your physical layout isn't exactly like the Walkers', but almost any unexcavated space next to the basement can be put to such use, even if a little extra digging is required. Sure was a bright idea for Mr. Walker!

2 Good Closet Ideas



Have you room for a closet where there's no room for a door? Then this clever contraption which operates like a Lazy Susan may well solve your problem. Here it's built into a room divider, but it would make good storage in any deep but narrow space which otherwise goes to waste



These two built-ins give you a heap of good storage—make themselves worth the small space they require in a house

Any narrow closet can really be organized with a built-in unit like this which "files" household linens, protects them from dust, leaves them easily accessible. Make your own variations—this one has a hamper, a section for a vacuum cleaner, top space for blankets. Plan so that drawers clear closet door at its widest open position for accessibility

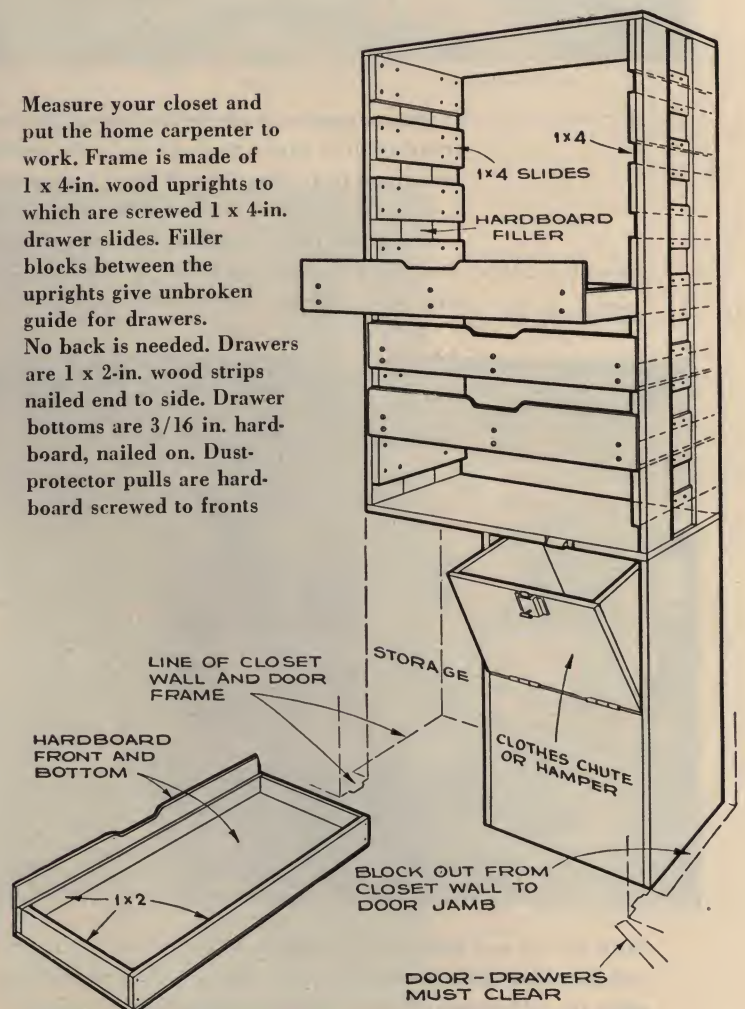


Hanging rod revolves on pivot and casters, and the door turns with it. A slight touch on the door, and it moves inside, bringing clothes to the front of closet



With door fully open, clothes from back are at your finger tips! An arrangement like this can house a now-you-see-it-now-you-don't TV set, or be put to good use in a kitchen

Measure your closet and put the home carpenter to work. Frame is made of 1 x 4-in. wood uprights to which are screwed 1 x 4-in. drawer slides. Filler blocks between the uprights give unbroken guide for drawers. No back is needed. Drawers are 1 x 2-in. wood strips nailed end to side. Drawer bottoms are 3/16 in. hardboard, nailed on. Dust-protector pulls are hardboard screwed to fronts



What appears to be just another cupboard on the end, does one of the neatest tricks we've seen: it lifts up to form a very generous drafting board, pitched at just the right angle, and enormously enjoyed by the designer who owns it



There's no limit to what a wall of shallow cupboards can do if it is properly thought out. Here, in a tiny house with a very open plan, the bedroom built-ins, which take the place of chests of drawers, extend right into the dining area where they turn up as drawing boards for homework, shown left. Here is good clean design in a built-in which more than pays for itself in the practicality it offers

Built-in Desks Can Really Work



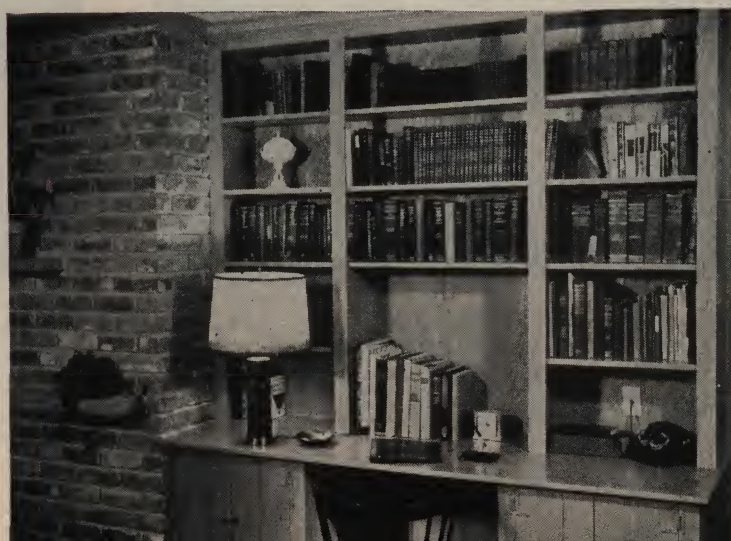
For a very small cost in floor space, a desk built into a corner can provide an incredibly large amount of work surface. The left side has drawers, the right a section which can be trimly closed, or can swing out to reveal a typewriter, and below it, a series of shelves for paper, carbons, current files, and the like



Here's an excellent desk and ample drawers for clothing in a very small amount of floor space in a small room. You could really spread yourself out here, for adding the usually wasted top of the "chest" to the desk's business surface makes it as roomy as a corporation vice president's

This built-in version of the old secretary-bookcase permits its owners to have an unusually large desk without cluttering the room. See how bottom bookshelves can add to the desk's depth when that depth is needed. Deep cupboards below could hold a typewriter and stationery, plus the usual miscellany found in a den's cupboards.

If bookcases flank a center fireplace, one could reach from floor to ceiling, and the other treated in this way



Magazine Racks Worth Copying

1



Two years' accumulation of your favorite magazines stack neatly and decoratively into an oversized rack which a home carpenter can build of plywood. Put it in a hall, den or bedroom, and paint it to match the walls or stain it to match other pieces of furniture. Nice thing about this rack—all magazines are visible

3

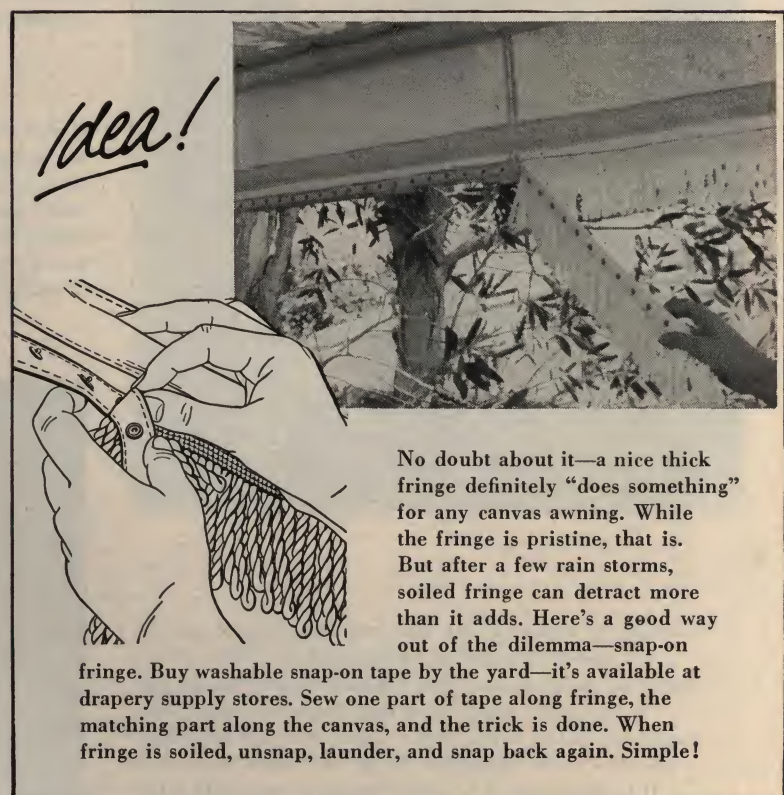


Back issues of your favorite magazines beg to be re-read when they're so attractively at hand. Stacked vertically, each on its specially sized and tilted shelf, they're a decorative index to the reading tastes in your home. Cabinet below gives additional storage space and could be adapted to any wall area. Note detail in curved sides is planned to add depth to shelves

2



Magazine hoarding can be a good habit, but those piles look awful! To file old periodicals neatly, handily, and out of sight, try a back-of-the-door rack. This frame was built of scrap lumber while strips of plywood made the shelves and bars which hold magazines erect—one bar is used at shelf level, one between the shelves



No doubt about it—a nice thick fringe definitely “does something” for any canvas awning. While the fringe is pristine, that is. But after a few rain storms, soiled fringe can detract more than it adds. Here’s a good way out of the dilemma—snap-on fringe. Buy washable snap-on tape by the yard—it’s available at drapery supply stores. Sew one part of tape along fringe, the matching part along the canvas, and the trick is done. When fringe is soiled, unsnap, launder, and snap back again. Simple!

You'd never know it was there!

Who would guess that the slick built-in units shown here could offer so much in storage space, or that they could be turned into dining spots that disappear when you don't need them



Would you guess that this trim foyer shelters not only a dining room, but a kitchen as well—all available at a flick of the wrist? Photograph opposite shows you what happens. The dining part is housed in a room partition whose second ceiling is partly glass to catch light from a window behind. W. F. Severin designed units for the home of Stewart Busch



The partition's side becomes a dining table and contains shelves for table appointments. When the table is hidden, its sturdy legs are disguised by a moulding. The compact kitchen is complete, hides behind folding doors which look like a wall and conceal it completely when it isn't working. If we hadn't shown you, you'd never know it was there!



Handsome birch wall unit added to one side of the room hides light gray Formica-topped table and conceals benches in space near the floor. Even when closed it is an ample storage cabinet, with narrow, wide, and broom-closet-size cabinets



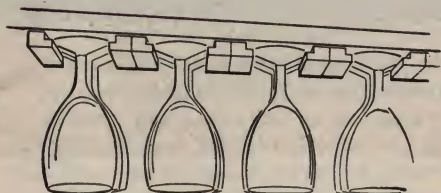
Open it up and look what happens. Lower doors support table which is fastened to the unit with strong piano hinges. Outlet for toaster or coffee maker, adjustable shelves which hold chinaware. Extraordinary use of a limited amount of space



This looks so simple, you say, but the thousands of steps this saves belies the thought. All herbs and seasonings are on hand, each group in its own compartment, easily distinguishable and all reachable. Pans and skillets hang at your finger tips

Kitchen Bouquets

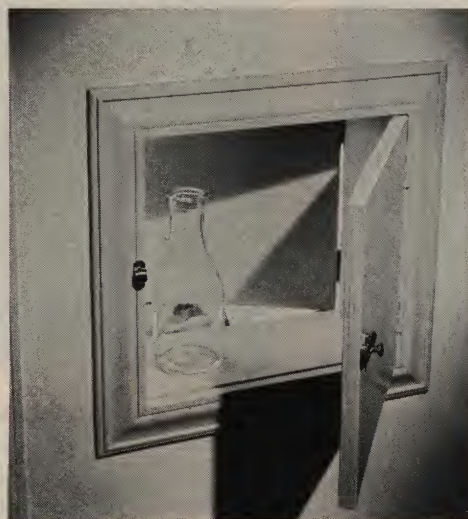
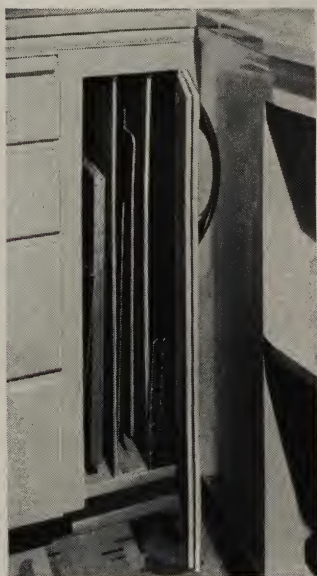
There's hardly a kitchen that can't use just a little bit more storage space. Here are some new angles on the old problem by making the most of what space you have



Fine glassware and china deserve the right care. Cupboard at right has channels of narrow wooden strips on underside of shelves to hold stemmed glassware



A vertical file, perfect for storing wood cutting-board, trays, cookie sheets. It's worth it alone as a resting place for that outsized turkey platter you have buried away on the top shelf of the clothes closet

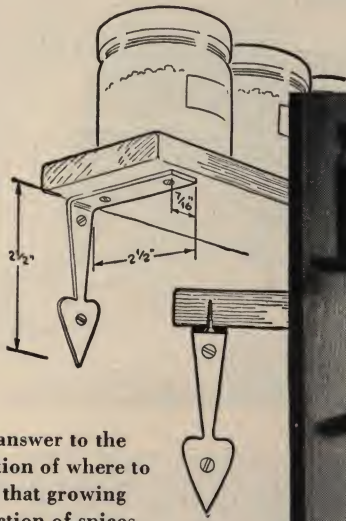


The latch string is always out for the milkman with this compartment in the kitchen wall. An outside door, a ledge, and then an inside door that locks securely with a barrel bolt. This arrangement could be used for mail or groceries too with slight change in design



If teen-agers are around, the best place for a telephone is probably a nice large closet done up like a padded cell. Short of that, a telephone tuckaway such as this, located at the end of a hall, takes only a few square feet of floor space, has many advantages. There are no wires to trip over. The swing-out chair stows neatly when not in use, for it is held in place by small cleats under the lower shelf. The telephone shelf is roomy enough to permit you to take notes while you talk, and below it there's a nook for directories, jot pads, and the like. Upper cupboard here holds linens.

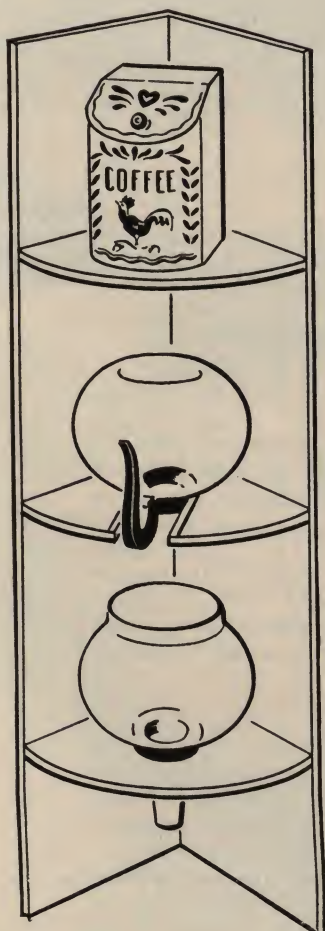
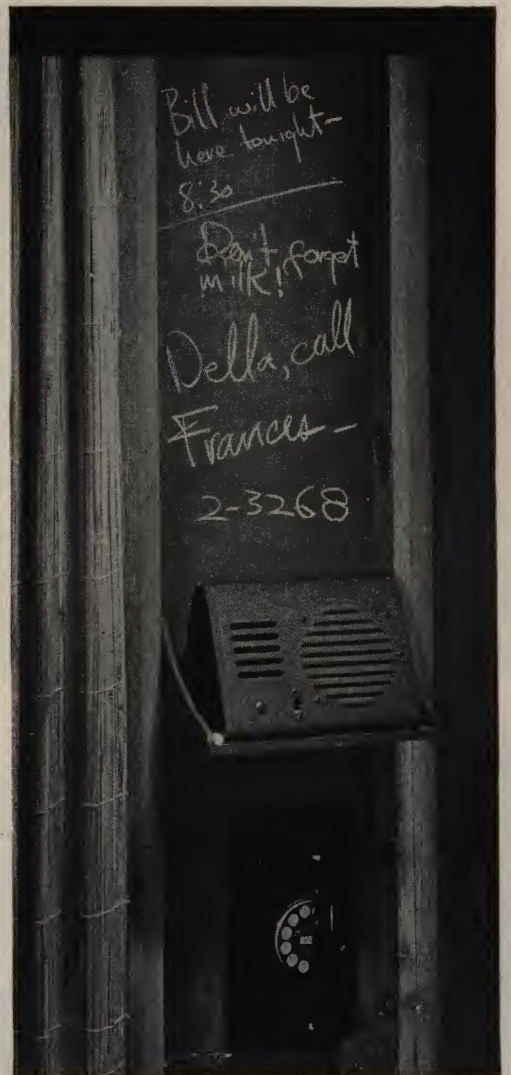
LITTLE SHELVES DO A BIG JOB...



One answer to the question of where to keep that growing collection of spices, often out of reach in the cupboard. Narrow shelves won't be in the way, will be decorative as well as handy. The little heart-shaped metal brackets can be cut at home, or your local metalsmith can cut them for you reasonably. Shelves are $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. pine. Baskets hang from cup hooks



This family message center was made by changing the wall around the phone into a writing surface. Green blackboard paint did the job. Paint will work on any smooth, hard surface. Brush on with care. Let each coat dry thoroughly before adding another. Three coats are better than two. Intercom phone completes message center



Need a safe haven to store your glass coffee maker? Here is the perfect solution: Small corner shelf made of two straight pieces of wood and three triangular shelves with rounded front edges. Top shelf holds coffee canister. Middle shelf has slot cut in center front for bottom of coffee maker (just slide in slot upside down). Bottom shelf has hole cut in center for the top of the coffee maker

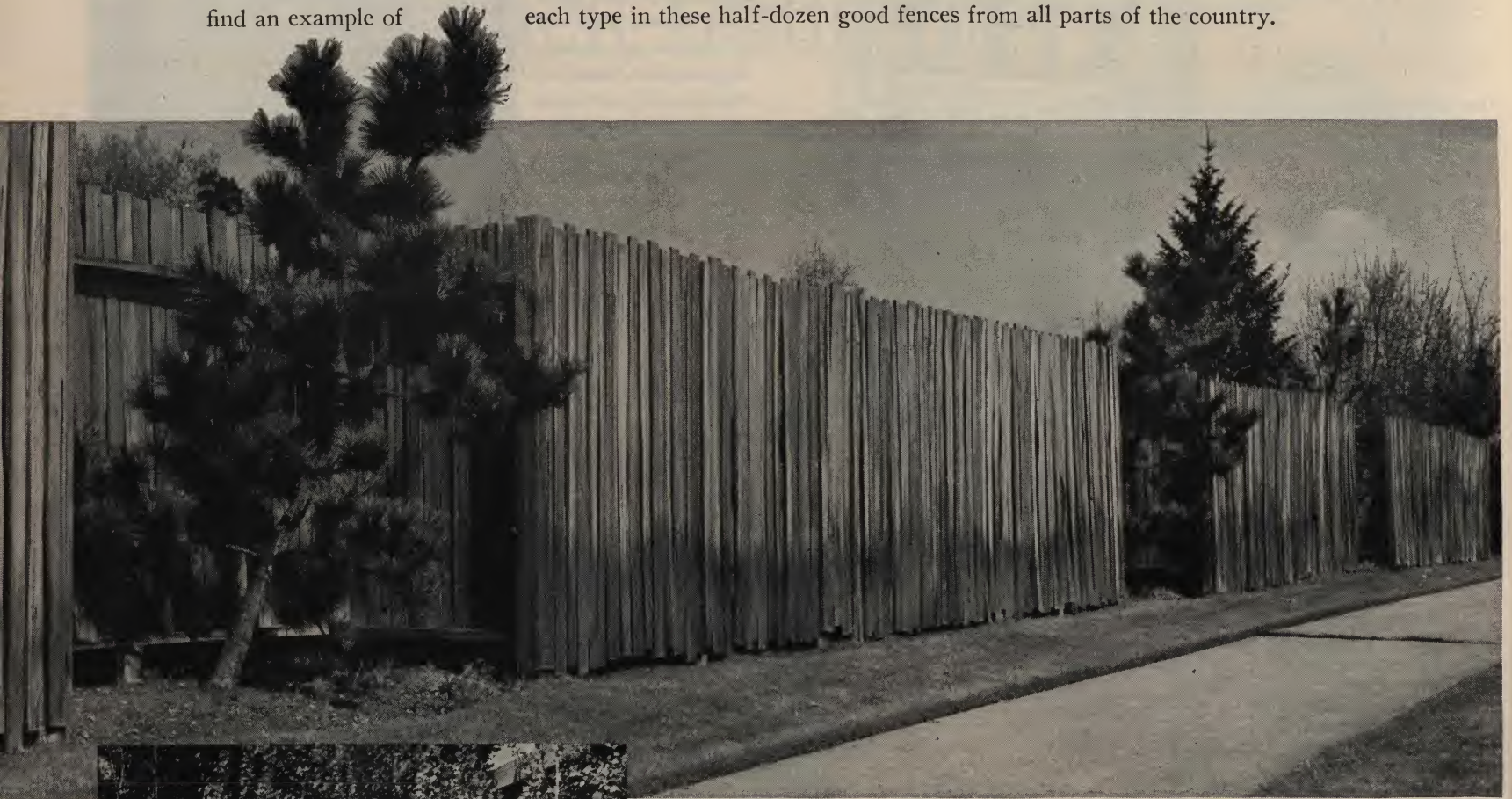


Simple way to file potlids, shallow tins, individual trays. Easy to make, takes up no extra room and eliminates necessity for trying to find them in a dark drawer. Shelves and crosspieces arranged for convenience

GOOD STORAGE TURNS UP IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

Time to Think about Fences

We may not like to be fenced in, figuratively speaking, but building and mending fences is a fine old American pastime for politician and private citizen alike. In addition to marking off property lines and shutting young fry and pets in or out, good fences can serve many a useful purpose, and modern landscape architects have come up with a number which are assets both visually and functionally: they can be windbreakers which enable you to enjoy outdoor living more months of the year; they can afford privacy, and still admit summer breezes; they can shut out a bad view; they can frame handsome plantings; or they can be primarily architectural, designed to improve the looks of your land or the lines of your home. You'll find an example of each type in these half-dozen good fences from all parts of the country.



Closed louver fence at far left has great beauty and dignity, makes a fine frame for planting and sculpture, affords complete privacy, deadens street noises. In this case, sections follow the contour of the land. It is made from 1 x 8 redwood nailed to a sawtooth stringer. Actually, the construction is much like that of a set of steps turned side-up. Top casts interesting shadow pattern

Like a giant basket, a woven wood fence gives you privacy, but it also allows for ventilation—especially important if the fence is built between your house and the direction of the prevailing summer breezes. Not hard to construct and, if stained, it requires minimum maintenance

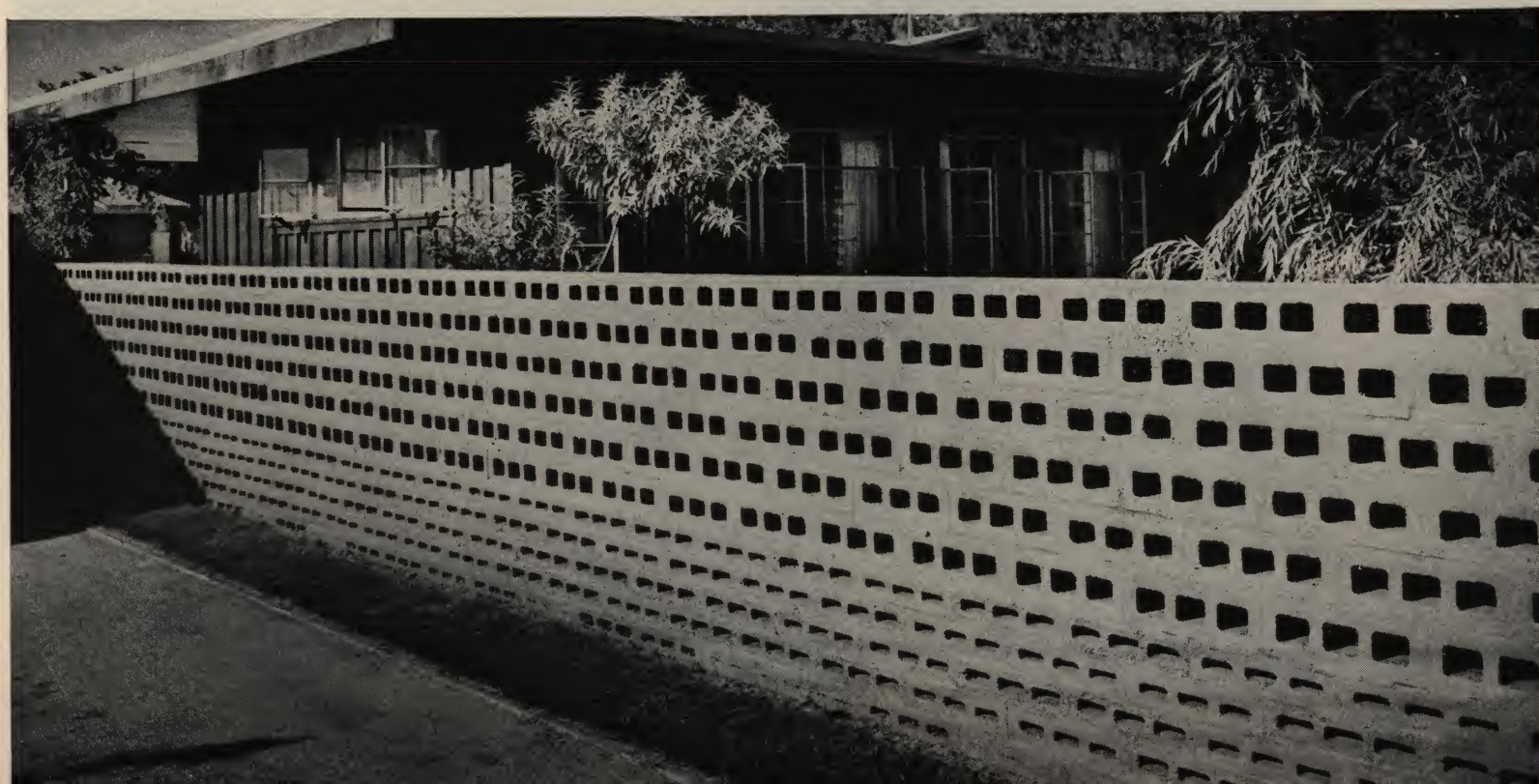


Louvered screens above do an architectural job. When the Paul Blocks of Toledo, Ohio, turned an enormous log "camp" into a fine year-round home, the lines of the house as seen from the street still didn't please them. To lower its apparent height and widen it visually, they designed these screens and painted them a bit darker than the trim of the house. Staggering the panels creates a feeling of privacy and yet admits a full quota of light and air

Split cedar fence at your left was designed to shut out the sight and the sound of traffic on a much-traveled road in Seattle, Washington, and to give greater privacy to a recreation room. To keep it from looking formidable, niches were built at regular intervals, and pine trees were planted within them

Serpentine wall of open brickwork is highly decorative, and openings permit both light and ventilation to enter. This type of fence is only practical if it has a good foundation, is well bonded by good mortar, and truly serpentine for side bracing. It lends itself to many uses within your grounds as well as around them, but don't try to build this one yourself unless you are skilled at masonry

Like the serpentine brick fence, the one below, made of commercial concrete block, provides openings for air and light and, because of its weight, should be built on a sound foundation. Owners Dan and Betty Greenwood of Fort Worth, Texas, designed it to be dog- and childproof, and to cast a wonderful shadow over their lawn when the afternoon sun is low. It is painted the color of the house trim





Now is the time to Build



As you have enjoyed your garden in past summers, how many times did you think of additional features which would add to the charm, or the livability, or the usefulness of your property? When the need for them is still fresh in your mind, it is an ideal time to make such improvements as the half-dozen we show here. Of course, the fall is the ideal time for such projects. Then not so many hours need be spent in actual gardening, and it's a more comfortable season for outdoor work than any other time. Then too, the ground is in good shape for digging, and planting can be done. But whenever you actually work out your projects, the planning can be done anytime.

1. HAVEN IN A GARDEN: Curved, legless bench is made of 1" x 2" redwood strips, set on edge ½" apart, and supported, cantileverwise, by 4" x 6" tapered redwood beams set right into brick wall 3' apart



them!

2. GARDEN POOL for goldfish, lilies, or reflecting, creates a center of interest. See how effectively this one serves to terminate the brick wall and paved terrace, to separate them from the rest of the garden

3. HANDSOME, SIMPLE GATES to mark the entrance to the driveway of a modern or ranch house, and excellent with a post-and-rail fence. (Note that even the shadow of the one that doesn't show is interesting)

4. SOPHISTICATED GATE for a Georgian or French house also blends well with a post-and-rail fence. Note how ball motif is picked up from post tops and repeated at the top of each round gate picket



5. LEAD UP TO A FLAGGED PATH with a flight of stone steps—but don't leave them bare. Note that these are planted so skillfully that both plants and stones look as if they had been there forever



6. MATCH STEPS TO RAISED BEDS: Step made of two 2" x 6" redwood planks, separated for looks and drainage by a 2" x 2". Raised bed for violas is made of split redwood with a 1" x 8" redwood cap



There are three sides

You can easily see what a small amount of space this mighty project required. Otis laid out the beginning boards, then started digging the footings. An intelligent, simple architectural plan was all they had to go by. Mrs. Andrews isn't knocking herself out at the moment, except for shouting encouragement

Well, now it's beginning to look like something! Otis is not riding a hobbyhorse, he's just about finished with the overhead work. If and when they want to make a permanent room, it won't be much work to add roofing, now that so much of the groundwork has been done up above. Don't work so hard, Mrs. A.!



The west wall is a wonderful idea. Not only is it practically all glass, but the panes are built to open, just in case the breeze dies down. Through here they can see all their pretty flowers, too. Mrs. Andrews is giving valuable help to her husband. Why not? She only has two youngsters to take care of!

It's finished! Doesn't it look good? Private enough to screen them from the neighbors, but left wide open for all the warm sun that wants to come in. It makes a fine place for summer meals, too. The Andrews celebrated when it was completed, by giving a supper-dance. The waxed concrete floor caught the samba

to this story

**The Andrews built three walls and
an open roof—have an outdoor living room. When they
roof it, add a wall, they will have an indoor playroom**

That good old American trait, the courage to try anything, is still blooming all around us! Here is a perfect illustration of what we mean. This outdoor room, built by Mr. and Mrs. Otis Andrews, combines a lot of hard labor with instinctive feeling for the "good" look, the right effect.

They wanted a slouch-around spot, they wanted privacy at the same time, and they didn't want to spend much money. So with a simple plan drawn by a designer within the building ordinance requirements, they proceeded to build it themselves. That's what's so wonderful about us—if we can't afford to have someone else do it, there's always the other way!

The pictures tell the story. Otis appears to be a

pretty strong boy, which is all right, because it looks as if he's going to do most of the work. The house itself forms the east wall. Studs and boarding on the north have a fireplace built in the center, and this comes in handy when the cool of the evening passes by. A glass wall with panes that open to the west overlooks the pretty garden. The south is exposed; roof rafters allow the bright sun to come in unhampered.

But the thing which makes this private outdoor room a nugget of pure gold is that by simply adding a south wall of glass, finishing the roof, and making a door out of one of the east windows, it becomes an inside room! Now that it's finished, the young Andrews wonder how they ever lived without it!



There's a new term we keep hearing around the country—"The Garden Room." It's usually on the back of the house overlooking the garden, and it always has a lot of glass in it. It's an all-purpose room which can add to your enjoyment of your home both in winter and in summer, and you can use it for dining, reading, studying, television, games, and as an extra guest room as well. It's also a fine place in which to winter your plants. Here's a step-by-step case history of a garden room that is fairly typical. The Peter Gowlands, of Los Angeles, had a roofed-over back terrace opening onto a brick-paved patio which has plenty of privacy. They extended the roof, put in new brick flooring to raise the new room to the level of the rest of the house, built walls of masonry block, and encased the room in glass. Part of the glass area is louvered and adjustable; the new section of the roof is made of a translucent corrugated plastic material that lets the light get through.

The



You can start a garden room "from scratch." But you're ahead of the game, of course, if you start with an existing porch, or, as the Gowlands did, with a roofed-over paved terrace



In this case, the original terrace was not as deep as the new sun room the Gowlands planned. It was therefore necessary to extend the old foundation out about four feet



To avoid frost-heave, footings were put in at the outside edges of the new room. They should extend below the frost line and be poured concrete or built up out of masonry block



One of the posts had to be removed to allow the new masonry block wall to be built. Before taking out the post, a 2 x 4 was cut to size and used to shore up the roof beam



Base sill for the windows was made from 2 x 6 redwood boards. Note the bolts projecting from the wall. These special anchor bolts were set in during construction of the wall



A lap joint was made where boards meet. Lay one board on other, flush with the end, and saw halfway through it. Use a heavy chisel to finish the cut. Repeat cut on other board



With an expansion bit, holes big enough for washers were drilled part way through top board, just deep enough so washer and nut would not project above the surface of sill

Gowlands Build a Garden Room



After the footings were poured, the masonry block wall was built of 4- by 16-in. blocks. Reinforcing rods were put in corners and back wall to strengthen the one-course construction



Floor was built of "split bricks." These are only half as thick as regular bricks. Bricks were laid on a bed of mortar troweled on the old floor to a thickness of one-half inch



The bricks were laid on the mortar one full row at a time. For a job like this, check bricks with level and straight board for alignment. Let the bricks set overnight



Three parts sand were mixed with one part cement and very little water, and worked between bricks. This dry mix requires sprinkling with water every 12 hours for two days



Drill through both boards a hole the size of bolt in center of previous hole. Bolt sills down, and if bolts project above the surface, cut them off flush with a hack saw



Construction details continued on page 104

In these days when every room does at least two jobs, your own garage probably takes on extra work. If, like most garages, it has become only a kind of casual and messy catch-all for storage, study the plan of this multi-purpose room. See how, by "stealing" a few feet of space all around, you can build extra functions into a double garage, all neatly concealed behind plywood doors—and *still* have room for the car! Actually, in a warm climate (and in a cold one if you space-heat it), a garage can house all the activities which used to go in the basement—and more handily, too, because reaching it involves no climbing of stairs. Top pictures show the "laundry" with washer, drier, and shelves for supplies. There's a hanging rack on the back of the folding doors which close when it's not in use. Next to it, a good darkroom caters to an amateur photographer's hobby. On other side of "laundry," a closet hides water heater and softener.

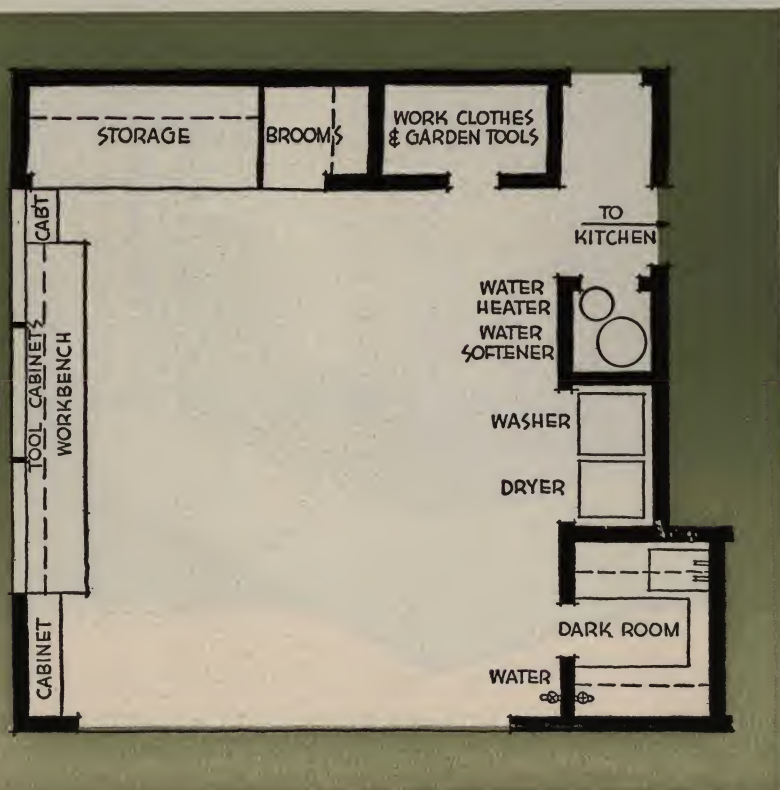
How to Get More from Your Garage

A 2-car garage can do more than just house cars. This one's a

- *Laundry*
- *Photo Darkroom*
- *Workshop*
- *Gymnasium*
- *Storage Room*

Efficient enough to tickle an engineer and attractive enough to please a decorator with its gray and coral color scheme, the workbench wall makes this the most accomplished garage you ever saw! The bench itself is well lighted, and provided with an outlet for power tools. Above it, cabinets with sliding doors house a full line of tools, and each saw, awl, and screwdriver is provided with a carefully measured place of its own. On either side of this unit, cabinets with combed plywood doors have specialized uses, and shelves are designed for the things which they hold: in one is kept a full line of car polishing equipment; another harbors electrical supplies for the home—bulbs, fuses, and the like; a third stocks hardware, plus casual odds and ends for which there's no space in the house. And as if that weren't enough, this same wall is the home gymnasium, provided with weights and the like.

Only a step from the kitchen, and from the garden, the garage is an ideal place in which to keep outdoor furniture, gardeners' tools, work clothes, and housecleaning equipment as well as long-range storage. But when the doors here are closed, you'd never dream how much went on behind them. The four-foot-deep closet on the left is the "trunk room," and it can keep, within easy reach, an attic's worth of out-of-season clothing, slip covers, camping equipment, sports gear—you name it! In the other closet, there's room to hang up a gardener's clothes and the boots which need never enter the house, and there are shelves for the things which help to give you a green thumb. Between the two is the household's broom closet, equipped with measured side shelves for cleaners, polishes, solvents, insecticides, and the cloths you need to apply them. What a load it takes off the kitchen's closets and shelves! Your space and requirements may differ from this owner's. Take stock of your own garage and see what it can hold for you—maybe there's room there for that downstairs washroom you've always wanted.





We wanted a pool the whole family could enjoy—one that could be built for very little. After reading innumerable articles and talking to several people who had built pools of all sizes, we had moments of hesitation and doubt, partly because of the economic aspect, partly because of all it involves in community relationships. Perhaps you have had the same desire, only finally to develop cold feet and give up the idea. Well, in our case, the “ayes” won out, and we want to say that our pool is the best thing we’ve ever done; our best investment since the basic one of buying our home.

Because our brood ranges in age from four to ten years, we made the pool 17 ft. long, 11 ft. wide, and 35 in. deep at the shallow end. From there it slopes gradually to 50 in. deep in the middle, then levels off. With half of it 50 in. deep, it is possible for adults and teen-agers to dive while the smaller fry can enjoy shallower water until they are ready for bigger things. The construction is poured concrete with an 8-in.-thick bottom and 6-in.-thick walls extended 18 in. above the ground level on all sides so as to keep leaves, frogs—and little tots—from falling in. Our first step was to have a small tractor with a bulldozer blade scoop out about 3 ft. and pile the topsoil in one heap handy for use later. Then, after setting up batter-boards at the corners and stretching guide lines, we squared off and leveled the hole with “blood, sweat,”

and shovels. We bought only enough lumber (second-hand) to make forms for half the pool—the deep half—which we poured first. Before doing that, we inserted a 1½-in. pipe in one corner of the bottom to serve as a drain, running a pipe from it out to the edge of the nearby hill which slopes down to the woods. Then, before the concrete hardened, we inserted half the width of a long strip of 8-in.-wide zinc flashing into the center of the sides and bottom. When that half of the pool had set, we took the form down, set it up for the other half, and poured that. The concrete filled in around the protruding 4 in. of the zinc strip, making the center joint proof against leakage or even seepage. Incidentally, this two-section method saved us \$47.00 on lumber and nails. The concrete used was a ready-mixed type recommended for pools, and only two deliveries were required, the truck pouring a little over three yards on each trip.

Several hours of rubbing down the inside with a cement-finish stone removed all rough spots. Then a wet 1-to-1 mixture of cement and sand was applied to fill any little holes, allowed to harden, hosed down, and rubbed down. On this we painted a neat cement mixture of heavy-cream consistency which dried to a really smooth surface. Finally, we painted the inside with sea-green plastic paint, and the coping white. Grass and flagstones around about completed the effect—and what an effect it is!

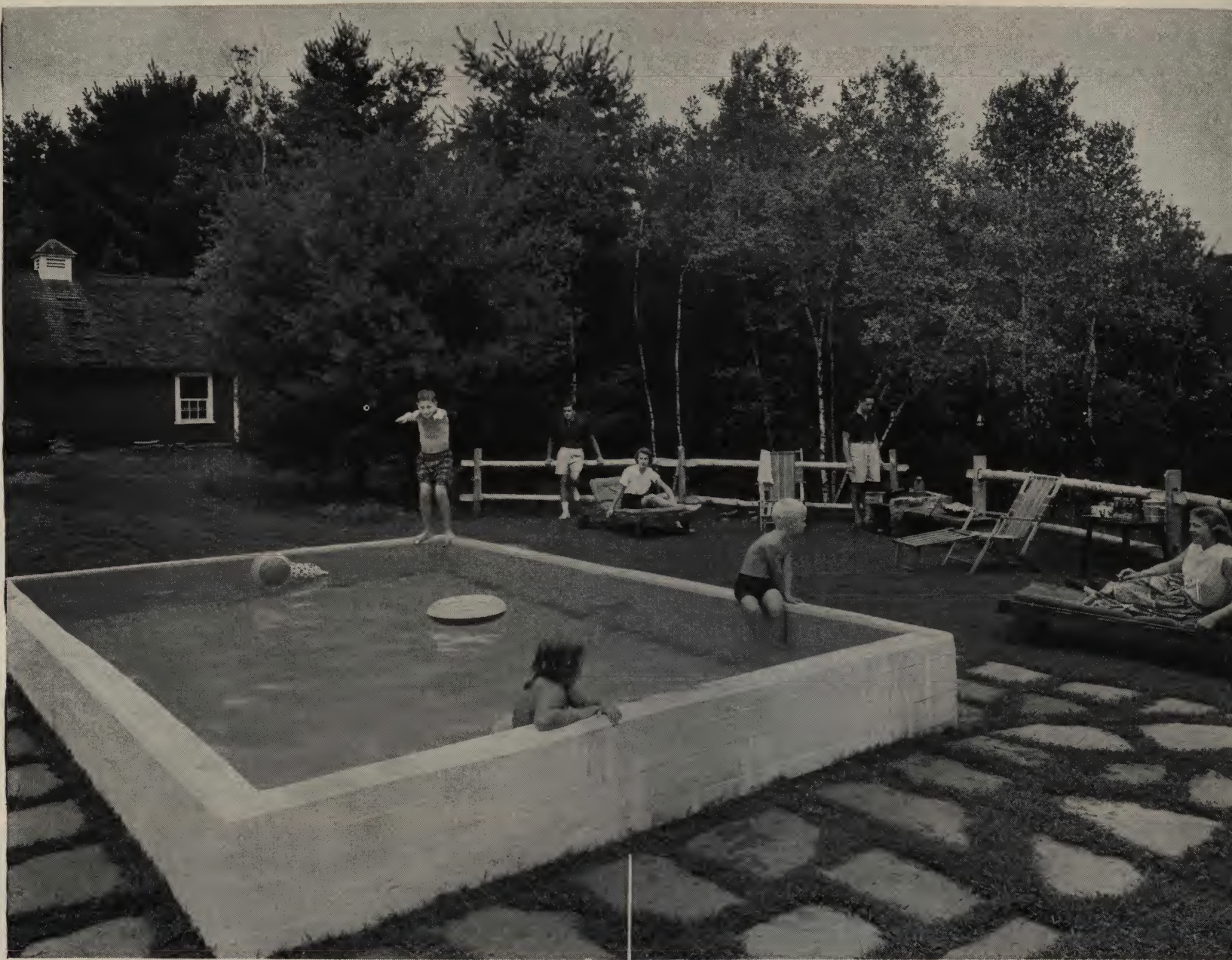


One of the rewards of your own swimming pool is a sense of personal accomplishment in building it. After a bulldozer had roughed out the excavation, we finished it by hand with shovels, after having set up batter-boards and guide lines as for any foundation job



Construction of forms; pouring, finishing, and painting the concrete; grading, seeding, and landscaping the setting—all these are jobs for family participation. Then comes the reward for everyone concerned—pool pleasure, under strict, but simple and sensible rules

WE BUILT A FAMILY SWIMMING



Excavation	12.00
Lumber & nails	47.00
Zinc Flashing	2.34
Wire	2.00
Drain & pipe & joint	16.56
6 3/4 yds. Concrete	89.37
Finishing Stone	2.49
Paint & brushes	10.75
1 bag cement	1.21
5# HTH	3.80
Large Bucket	1.98
Labor	<u>25.00</u>
	214.50

2 loads fill	10.00
300 sq. ft. flagging	60.00
Grass seed	2.40
Roofing Paper	<u>3.49</u>
	75.89

POOL FOR \$290³⁹

However, building a pool is only the prologue. Operating and managing it involve major problems that call for ingenuity, tact, and firmness. For example, the "large bucket—\$1.98" sits at one corner, and *everyone* walks through it before swimming, to avoid tracking in leaves, grass, and dirt; disinfectant added to the water in it is also a wise precaution. One ounce of powdered chlorine (HTH) added to each filling of the pool (3,500 gallons) keeps the water safe, and makes a change necessary only about once a week. While this may sound expensive (and our water rates are called high), each filling costs us only 70 cents, for the industrial or minimum rate charged for large consumption is much lower than the usual household rate. We can fill the pool (with the garden hose) in ten hours, and drain it in three; the water runs off into the woods through a 1½-in. pipe outlet inserted in the bottom in one of the deep corners when the concrete was poured. While it is empty we scrub it with hot water and a detergent.

Now a pool is not only a family, but also a "community" affair. That means that no halfway measures can be taken as to how it is to be used by neighbors and friends. Most people will wait to

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 106



You can have this Swimming Pool Three Weeks from Today!

William Spencer was a "Pool-wisher" for many years, until suddenly he became a "Pool-owner" after three busy week ends with the help of all his able-bodied neighbors, 14 long-handled shovels, 6 pairs of work gloves and 8 cases of beer. He knows from experience that anyone can build himself a pool. Here's how he did it, and you can do it, too.

One day he saw a pool that caught his fancy, paced off the size and went home to fit it in his own yard in Rancocas Woods, New Jersey. First he laid out a 20 foot by 40 foot rectangle with stakes and string. A center string was staked out, and an arc of 10 foot radius was swung at each end to form the desired oval shape which was then scratched in the dirt.

The plan was explained to all interested neighbors, 14 shovels and 2 wheelbarrows were borrowed, and the project was ready to roll. Almost to a man the neighbors reported for duty on the following Saturday morning, and not long after dawn's first glimmer the dirt began to fly. Mr. Spencer had to run the show with a firm hand to prevent unnecessary shoveling of the dirt, handling it several times.

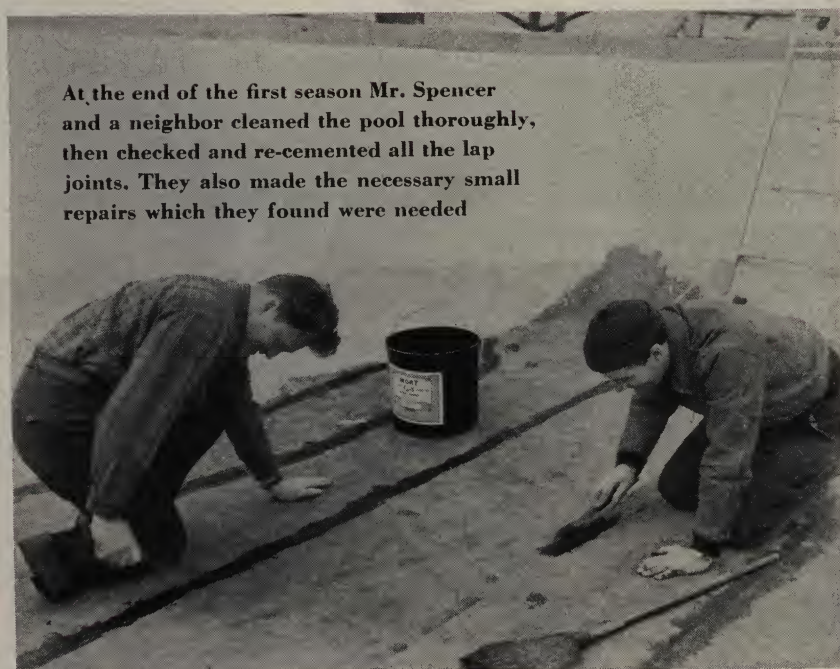
MATERIAL COSTS OF MR. SPENCER'S POOL

6 pairs of working gloves	\$ 2.34
1800 cinder blocks @ 14c each	\$252.00
Cement, lime and sand	\$ 43.05
20 rolls heavy grade tar paper @ \$2 each	\$ 40.00
Pipe and fittings	\$ 24.60
30 gallons of roofing cement	\$ 14.34
4 gallons of asphalt-aluminum paint	\$ 15.00
2 metal ladders	\$ 44.00
Diving board—14 feet of 2 x 18 yellow pine	\$ 14.00
Pump for water supply	\$ 88.00
Miscellaneous (replace 2 shovels and 1 wheelbarrow which were broken, diving-board anchor bolts, etc.)	\$ 24.00

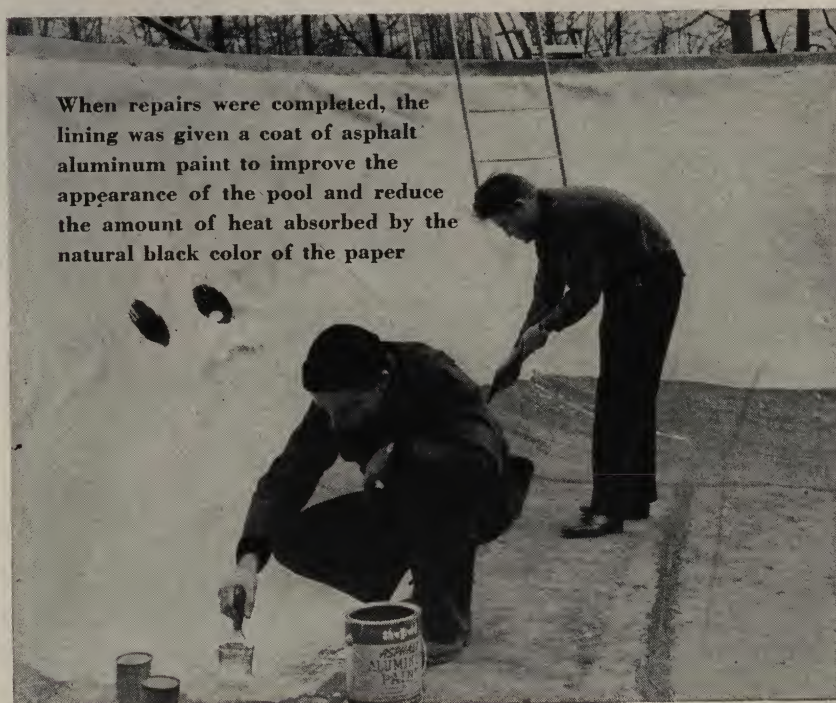
Total \$561.33

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 104

The materials for this pool cost only \$561.33, exclusive of the lamps for night bathing, the benches, and the fence to keep out small children, dogs, and wind-blown papers and leaves. In the top picture the river, convenient for overflow and draining, is in sight above the deep end of the pool which has been drained for cleaning and repairs. The lower view, from the deep end, shows a typical summer day with the pool in use



At the end of the first season Mr. Spencer and a neighbor cleaned the pool thoroughly, then checked and re-cemented all the lap joints. They also made the necessary small repairs which they found were needed



When repairs were completed, the lining was given a coat of asphalt-aluminum paint to improve the appearance of the pool and reduce the amount of heat absorbed by the natural black color of the paper

A Million Dollars worth of Fun for \$15⁰⁰



Her sons wanted it. Mrs. Higgins said she'd build it herself. The neighbors said she couldn't. But she did—and these pictures prove it



This 15 by 7-foot swimming pool in Atlanta, Georgia, is consistently full of happy, splashing children because Mrs. Lewis Higgins of Virginia Place, N.E., found enough energy, ingenuity, and elbow grease to build it—all by herself—for \$15.00. The money went for one ton of sand (\$4.00), half a ton of gravel (\$3.00), five bags of cement (\$6.10), and waterproof paint (\$1.90).

To look at her, you'd wonder how she thought of doing it, let alone tackled it, for she is small—112 pounds—blond, with pretty, delicate features. But she is also the kind of energetic person who will try anything in the creative building line, sometimes surprising even herself with her successes. In this case, as the days grew hotter and her boys talked swimming from morning until night, Mrs. Higgins realized that something in the way of a "swimmin' hole" was needed that would be fun for her nine-year-old Mike as well as for her Stevie, age two. Readymade pools, she decided, would be fine for the little fellow, but too flimsy for Mike and his older friends. Right then she had herself a brainstorm and said she would build them a real, concrete swimming pool! The neighbors, agreeing that it was entirely too much of a job for a woman, not only doubted that the idea would ever come to anything, but even expressed their doubts by starting a round of friendly bets to that effect.

But Mrs. Higgins had made up her mind and went merrily on her way with no help from anybody. First came the digging. Really hard work that was as the temperature soared to 95 degrees, for a hole 15 by 7 feet

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 103



Built for \$60!

Dear Editor: After reading "A Million Dollars Worth of Fun for \$15" in the *AMERICAN HOME*, "Why," said I, "Isn't more attention given to what we women can do when our female determination goes to work?" With that in mind, I just had to tell you how I built a 5 x 9 ft. fish and lily pond for \$60, entirely by myself, despite the skeptical grins of family and friends. The work started with a hole 10 ft. long, 6 ft. wide, and 3 ft. deep. (Depth is important if you plan to leave fish in the pond over winter.) That dug, I bought a load of brick ("seconds") for \$33 a thousand; a level (\$2.49); a bricklayer's trowel (49¢), and a garden cart (\$7.95). The rest of the \$60 went for sand and cement as needed.

Mixing the cement in the cart, I poured it into the hole on top of a layer of broken stone and brick to a depth of about 4 in. A few days later I laid the walls (one brick thick), filled in behind them with broken and useless brick, and over this poured a very wet cement-sand mixture up to ground level. I laid the top course of bricks on edge crosswise to form a rim above the ground, and used

the rest to build a pedestal for a plant urn. As the onlookers' grins began to disappear, I proudly painted the inside of the pond with blue pool paint to both waterproof it and give it a professional look. Finishing in August, I planted hardy waterlilies right away to give them a good start. The picture shows how my work blossomed into a thing of beauty the following summer. In the plant box at the right (4 in. below the surface) I put a cattail, pickerelrush, velvet leaf and water-poppy; in the other (2 in. below), I put a papyrus, green taro, lobelia, and dwarf sweet flag. Around the pool are marigolds, zinnias, phlox, roses, pansies, coleus, and other easy-to-grow old favorites that provide color and cut flowers.

The pool has no drain and when I want to empty it I siphon the water out with a hose into the basement drain. To take care of any overflow after heavy rains, I inserted pieces of 3/4-in. pipe just below the brick rim so the water can flow out onto the grass.

So ends the tale of the "big ditch," which isn't such a joke among my friends anymore. Who said that women are the weaker sex?

Outdoor Ideas Worth

Remember that good outdoor living you enjoyed at your friends' homes last summer? Now's the time to build the same kind of pleasure into your own property, so, to wish you and your young fry a good summer, we've gathered on these five pages a score of ideas for everything from an imposing barbecue to a better compost heap.

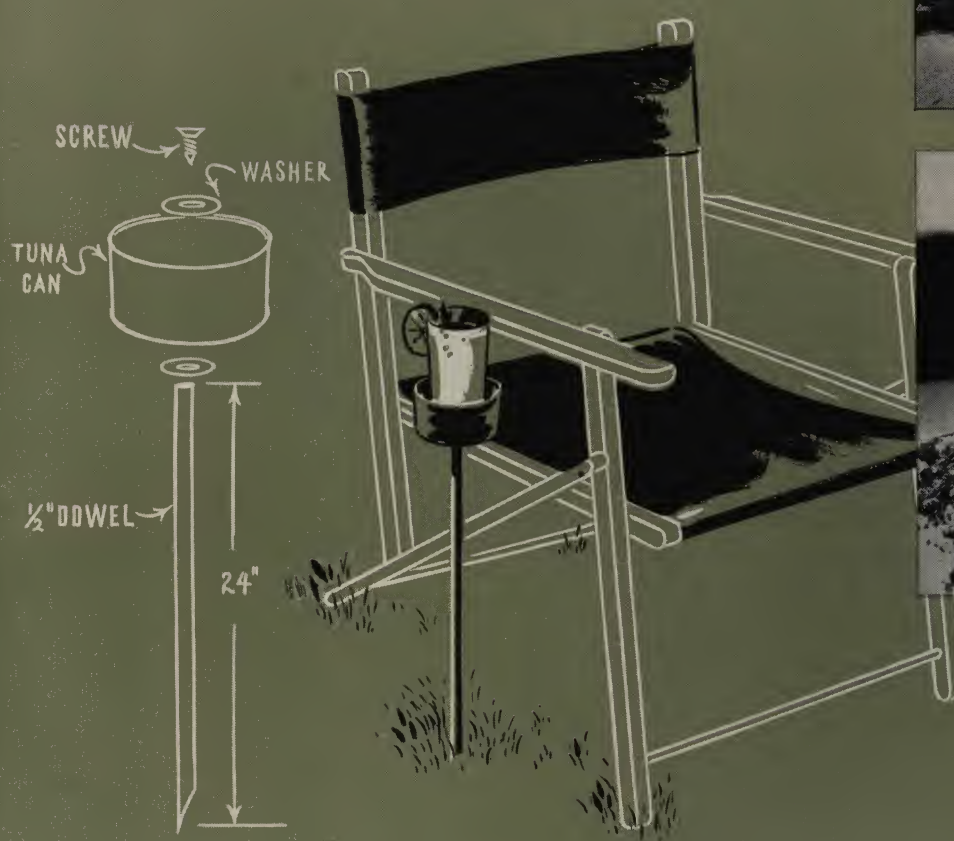
Seat in the sun: If you'd like a triple settee which follows the sun, take a look at the one on your left—it's an ordinary, mail-order catalogue kind of wooden slat bench with wagon wheels added.

Table in the shade: Nature's umbrella, a lofty tree, shades the practical outdoor table below, and the diagrams show you how to build it and benches to match.

Security for a long, cool one: That little glass-holding stand next to the chair on the opposite page will keep a drink from refreshing your lawn instead of your guests. It's made of a salmon can attached with a flat-head screw to a ½-in. dowel, 24 in. long. To accommodate the screw, drill a hole in the center of the bottom of the tin and the top of the dowel. Paint the whole thing your favorite color. Sharpen one end of the dowel to stick in the ground.



Copying

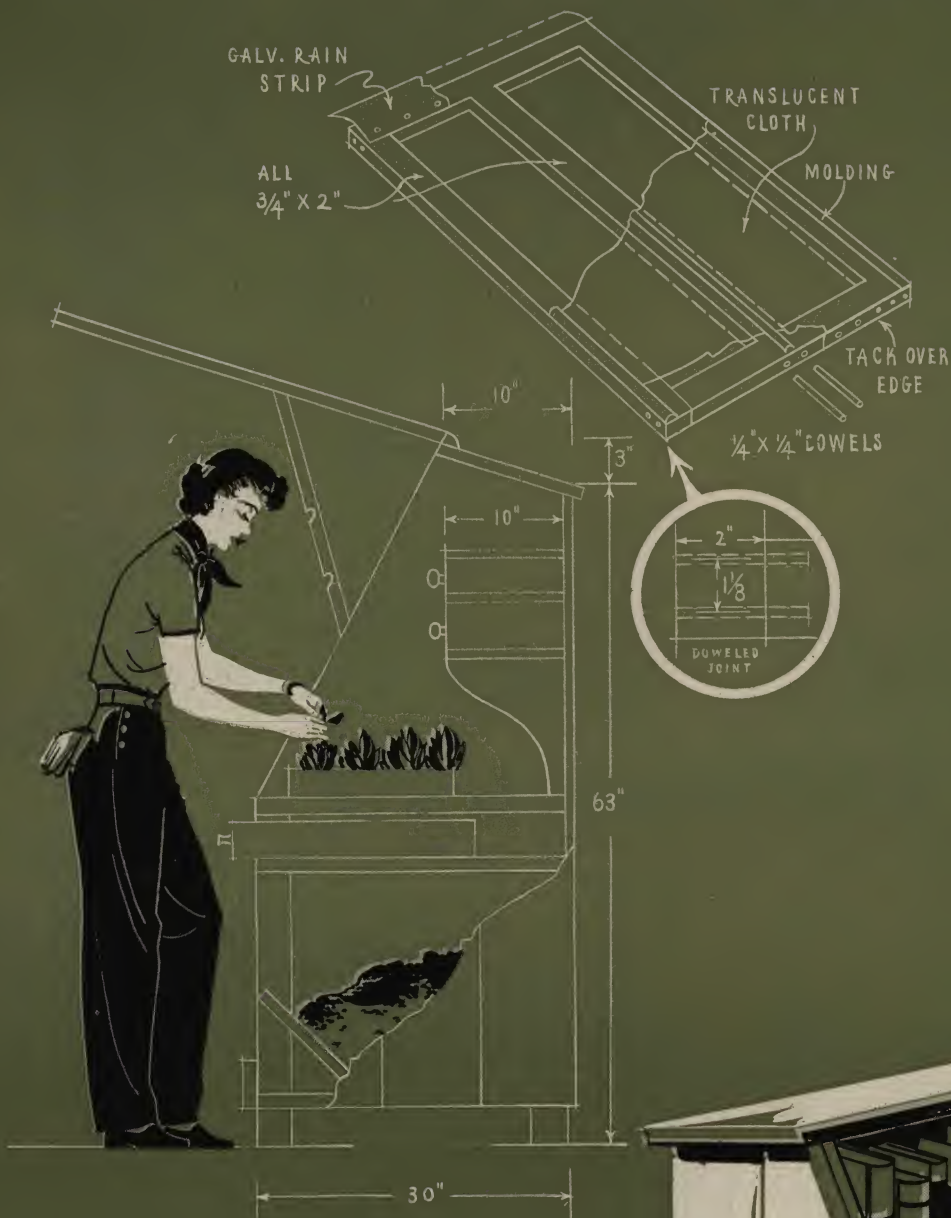


(1.) At one end of your patio, a structure like this can house a whole kitchen, store your garden tools, and act as a windbreak. Build with studding, and sheathing on outside, 3/4-in. plywood for interior and partitions, wood shingles for roof. Paint or stain. (2.) A potato masher for the gardener? It's a wonderful tool with which to break up and smooth lumpy earth if your skin is allergic to soil. (3.) The unseen gadget behind this flange coils your attached hose in wire basket inside.



This bottomless barrel with tight-fitting lid transforms your garbage into soil-enriching compost. Set in a handy spot, pile leaves and litter around it, fill with kitchen waste, dusting each 6-in. layer with soil and ground limestone. When full, lift barrel, mix contents with other compost. Then move barrel to new spot and start over again.

Little Ideas you

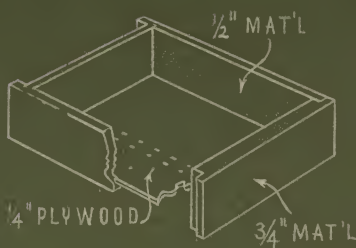


Come what may, we can be sure that no ceilings will be put on good ideas, no restrictions on ways to use them in making our homes and gardens more livable and lovely. Nor is there, for ideas, any priority rating based on their complexity or what they cost. Often, a simple homemade gadget or unorthodox device will turn out to be surprisingly useful, a "joy forever." The examples shown here may not belong in that class, yet you may find them so if, accepting them merely as suggestions, you develop their possibilities in relation to your conditions and problems.

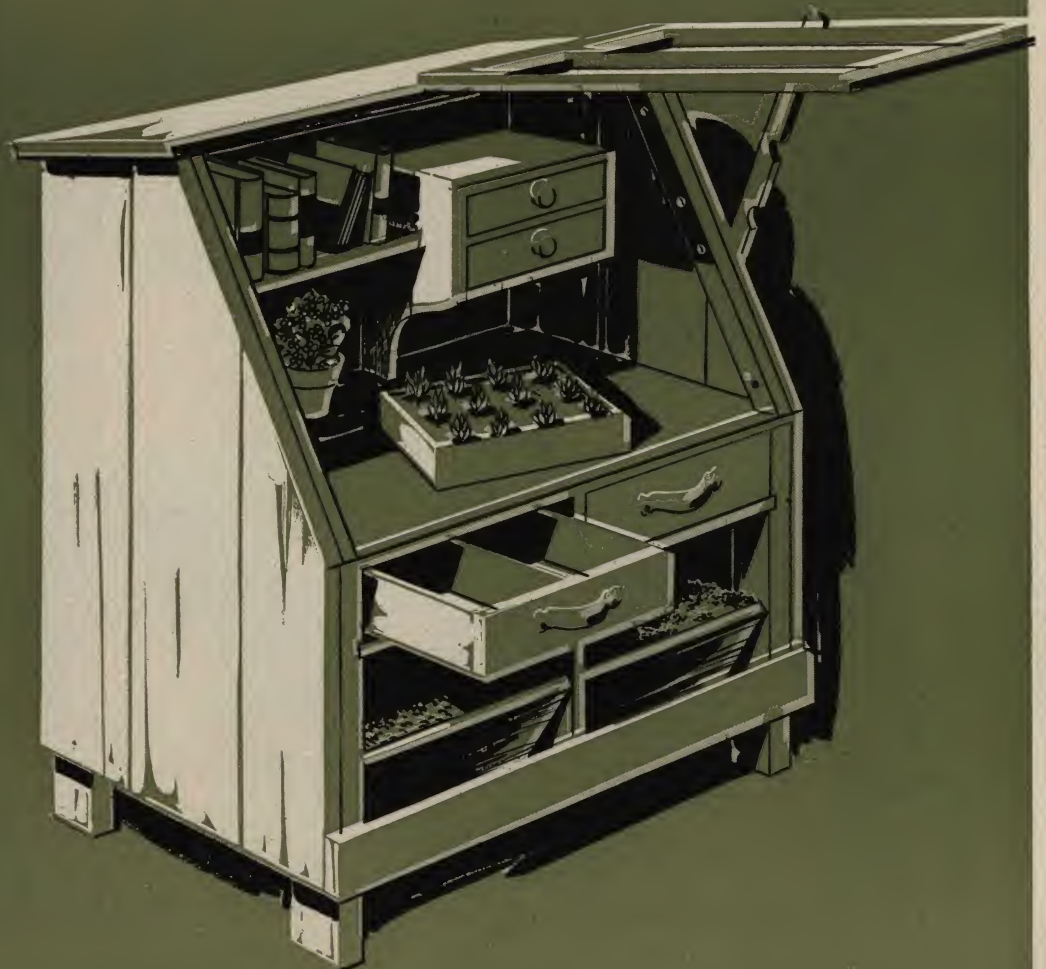
Take the little patio, built by the Charles A. Bowers of California where summers are very hot. The cement patio looked good, but it needed some protection from the sun. Ingenuity to the fore in the use of inexpensive materials and the delightful result followed.

The other ideas are of the same inventive quality, designed to serve an important purpose, but using easily available materials and a minimum of labor. Here it's the idea that counts!

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 103



FOR MORE WORKING DRAWINGS,
AND DATA, TURN TO PAGE 103



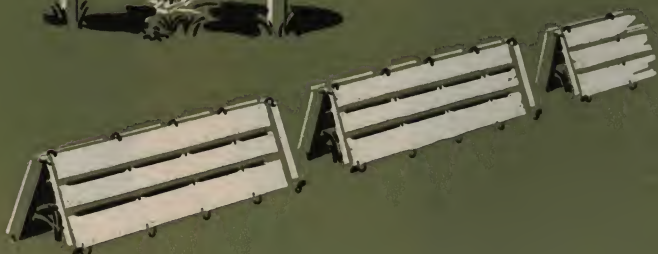
can use



New paved patio, exposed to summer heat, was unusable; roof of ordinary materials, like shingles, was prohibitively costly. But 1,000 ft. of rejected Venetian blinds (\$15) nailed to framing made of \$17 worth of lumber, made the spot livable and lovely



Discarded wire-bound orange crates have many uses; are light, sturdy, and store flat in little space. First, remove ends; then cut wires at center, turn back ends. Wire in pairs to legs for top protection, or use as "tents"



Frames of worn-out lamp shades can quickly be made into useful, inconspicuous plant supports. Standard straight-sided type, with top ring snipped off, cuts into two 3-legged semicircles



With flaring bridge or table-type frame, cut supporting side wires with wire clippers alternately at top and bottom, and straighten them. Cross wires in top give plants added support



Devised to relieve the flatness of a plain wall along path to front door of a beach house by casting interesting patterns on it, this clothesline lattice between posts standing on brick wall of raised plant bed could be used in many other settings

Night Life for Your Garden

You no longer need the moon—with her moods and phases—to enjoy romance and glamor in your garden. Here, soft light is thrown upward and downward by two carefully designed reflectors so placed against the tree trunk that the source of illumination is hidden

A few of many available garden lighting fixtures—weatherproof, inconspicuous, easy to install, safe. 1. Leaf-design aluminum shield with 20-in. stake, for single bulb; can be used alone, or seven, wired in series, 3 ft. apart, will light a strip of bed or border. 2. Molded plastic tree-trunk reflector throws light upward; effective in “bosky dells.” 3. Another type of leaf shield in green-finish aluminum; 8 in. high, on 13-in. stake. 4. Realistically green composition-stone frog reflector; light hidden within sends 12-ft. stream of light through mouth. 5. Twin rubber lily-pad reflectors float on pool surface and support light bulbs in waterproof sockets



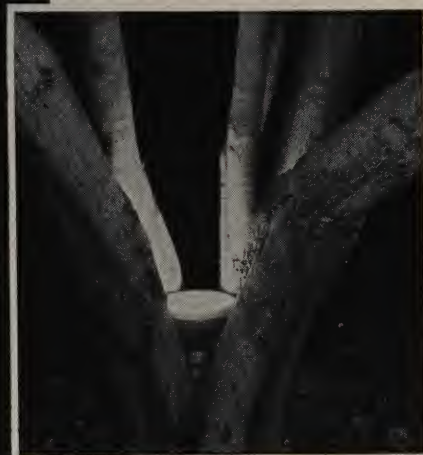


Light your terrace, steps, and paths for safety; your woodland and rock plantings, your flower beds, trellises, and shrubs for beauty—and thus add a new time dimension to your enjoyment of your garden

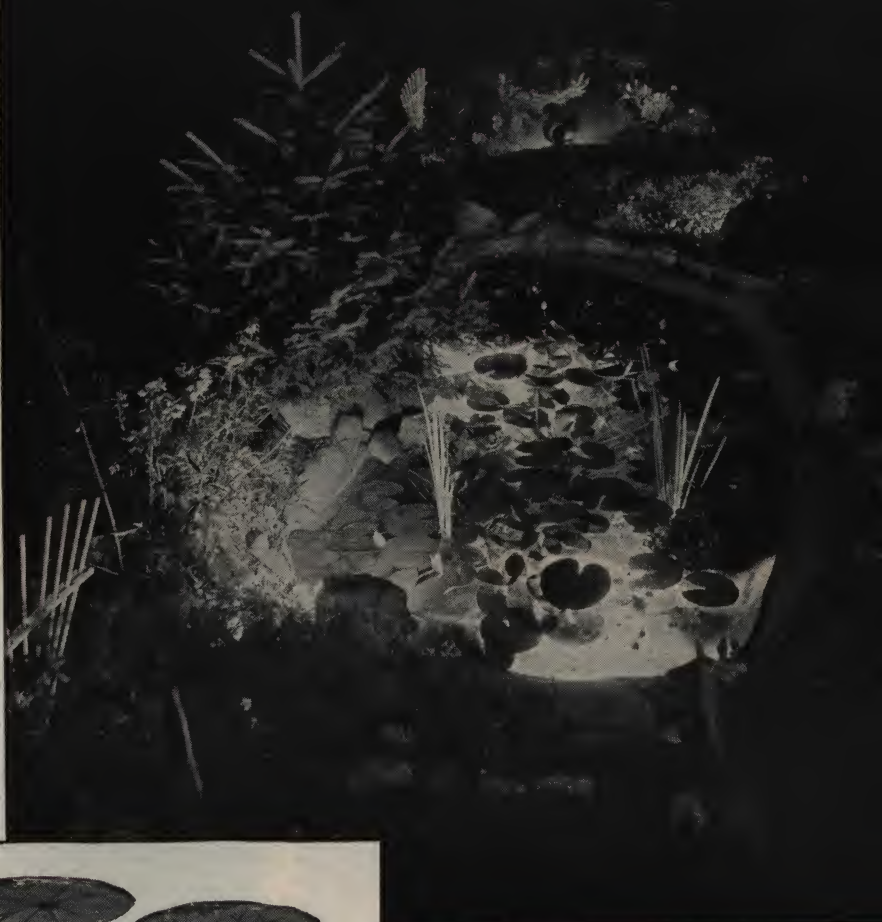
Why should sunset abruptly curtail your enjoyment of your garden any more than it ends the pleasure in your home indoors? Increasing numbers of people with imagination who say it shouldn't, are taking advantage of modern garden-lighting methods and equipment and, to their delighted surprise, are finding the results neither expensive, complicated, nor difficult, but almost as casual a matter as connecting table or bridge lamps or any sort of electrical equipment in living room, kitchen, or where you will.

As all lovers know, moonlight brings to a garden a fantastic, fetching magic which is never crude or harsh. Most early efforts to duplicate this effect used flood lighting which, literally, floods and flattens an area and destroys its beauty. Modern man-made illumination is softer; like moonlight, it comes from a distance and, so far as possible, from hidden sources. Today, garden lighting equipment is not rigid, metallic, and ugly by daylight, but natural in form and color, like lily pads (of rubber) that float serenely on a pool with lights attached below them; a lifelike frog with an inner light; a shield in the form of a rock, so realistic you do not notice it; a tree stump reflector that blends with its living neighbors; leaf shields that merge with the plants around them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 106



Modern materials and methods make possible unusual lighting effects. A floodlight nestled between tree trunks reveals hidden charms—of foliage above, bark texture below



The eerie beauty of a garden pool, of whatever size or type, is enhanced when underwater lighting turns the floating lily pads into shadow patterns and merges into one effect the details of the pictures above and below the surface of the pool

Storage Wall—Gardener Style

Just 19 ft. long, 6 ft. high, and 3 ft. wide, with a 30 in. trellis overhang, the shed fits nicely among the trees—not only an attractive garden feature, but also a welcome windbreak. Also it gives added privacy for outdoor living. The double doors of random-width boards have heavy strap hinges (double welded ones in the center) hasps and padlocks, wooden buttons, and top bolts. A building like this fits in almost anywhere



Not wanting to add another real building to the dwelling, studio, and garage already on his property, but needing space for gardening tools, Edward Wilson adapted the “storage-wall” idea. This unusual and good-looking tool storage shed, with its three sets of double doors accommodates all his implements, and provides a work and potting bench as well as shelves and storage space for his flower-gardening wife. The concrete floor, being just above ground level, is always dry, and the cemented flagstone apron or ramp along the front makes it easy to get the power lawn mower and other wheeled implements in and out



In Mrs. Wilson's 6 ft. by 3 ft. nook, two shelves above the broad counter hold small tools, pots, supplies, and the like. Below is space for soil, plant foods, and other bulky material.



A clear space 12 ft. by 3 ft. and, along the back wall, an old gun rack to support hoes and rakes, provide a place for everything. Result: the most shipshape kind of storage



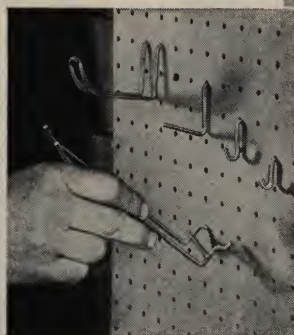
Simply constructed of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. sheathing on frame of 2 x 4's (which are doubled at the corners, single elsewhere) it combines good appearance, and tool care economy



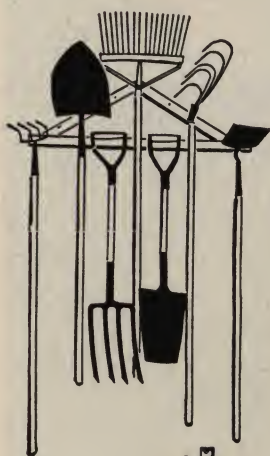
This all-steel space-saving support, hangs from two wall hooks or from four in ceiling or joists. More units can be added if needed for more space. Sells for about \$3.29

"Peg-Board" is device for hanging all sizes and kinds of objects in handy places. Sheets of brown Masonite (smooth or leatherwood finish) up to 48" x 96", with holes every inch, when screwed to studs (or, with $\frac{3}{8}$ " spacers, to flat walls) take bent ends of variety of hooks, brackets, clips

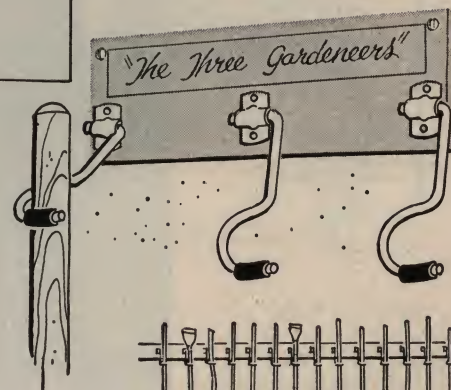
How an ingenious gardener treated a rarely used garage door. Simple hinged frame with holes through top, and partly through bottom rail, doubles tool storage space



Hang It All!

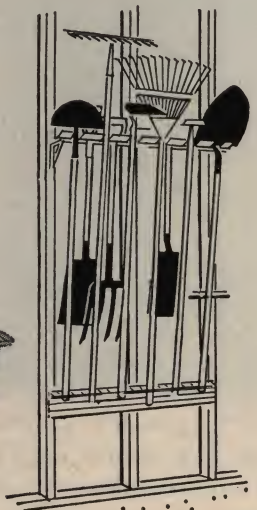
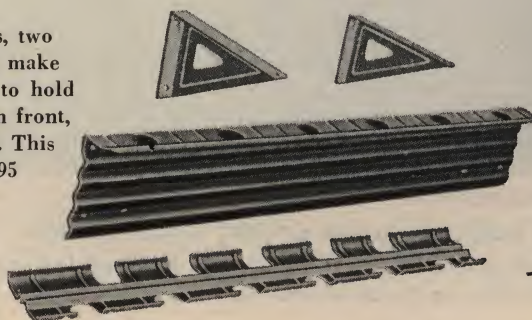


For orderly use of garage, toolshed, or cellar wall space, welded steel holder occupies only 12" x 36", holds seven tools in strong U-shaped prongs. Takes up very small space in depth



Tools hung heads down can't fall on yours! Hooks lift up for inserting handle of tool, hold fast or release instantly. These are on the market in box of 4 hooks for 50¢, or 3 hooks on a board for about \$3.95

Top and bottom racks, two brackets, bolts, screws make up a triple-duty rack to hold 6 long-handled tools in front, 5 shorter ones behind. This set sells for about \$2.95

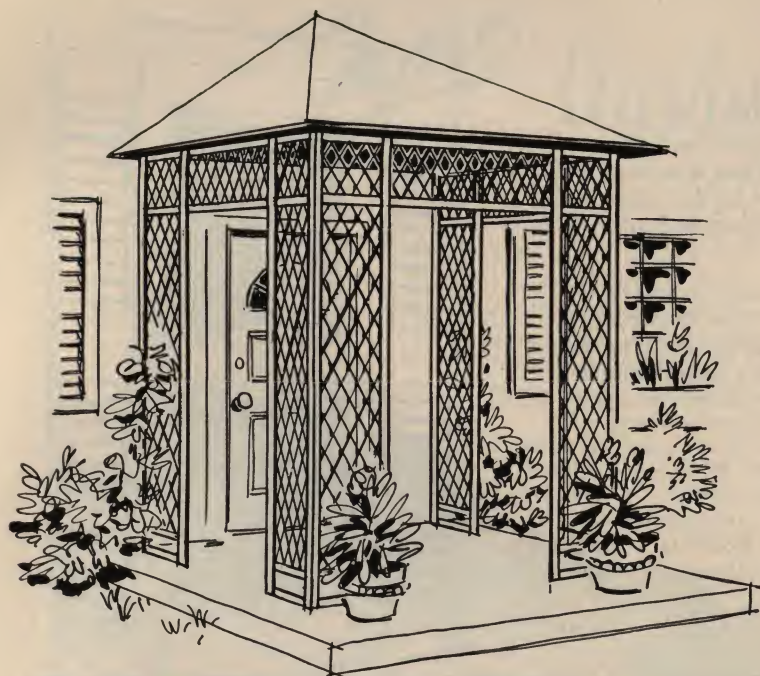


Storage Problem Solved!

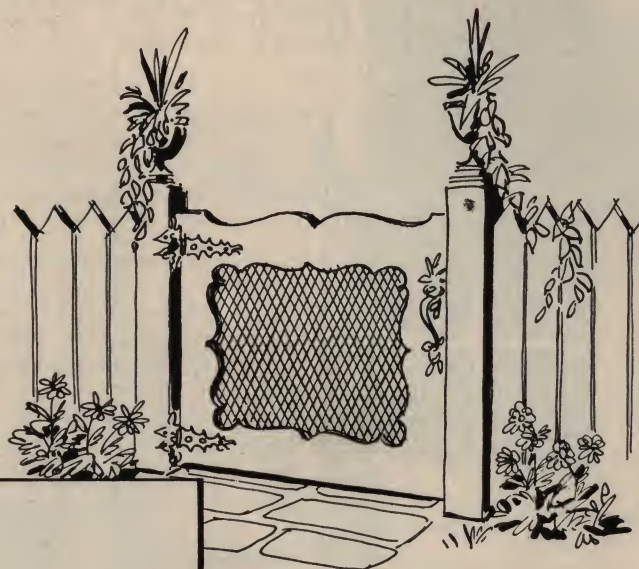
*... easy to find and easy to store — speeds up the seasonal
job of changing of storm sash and screens*



Put that dead space above the car at the back of the garage to work. Screens and storm sash will be out of the way, easy to get at, and protected. Use a 2x4 frame, 2x2 and 1x2 runner slats, fit the available space, and plan compartments to fit the number and size of your sash



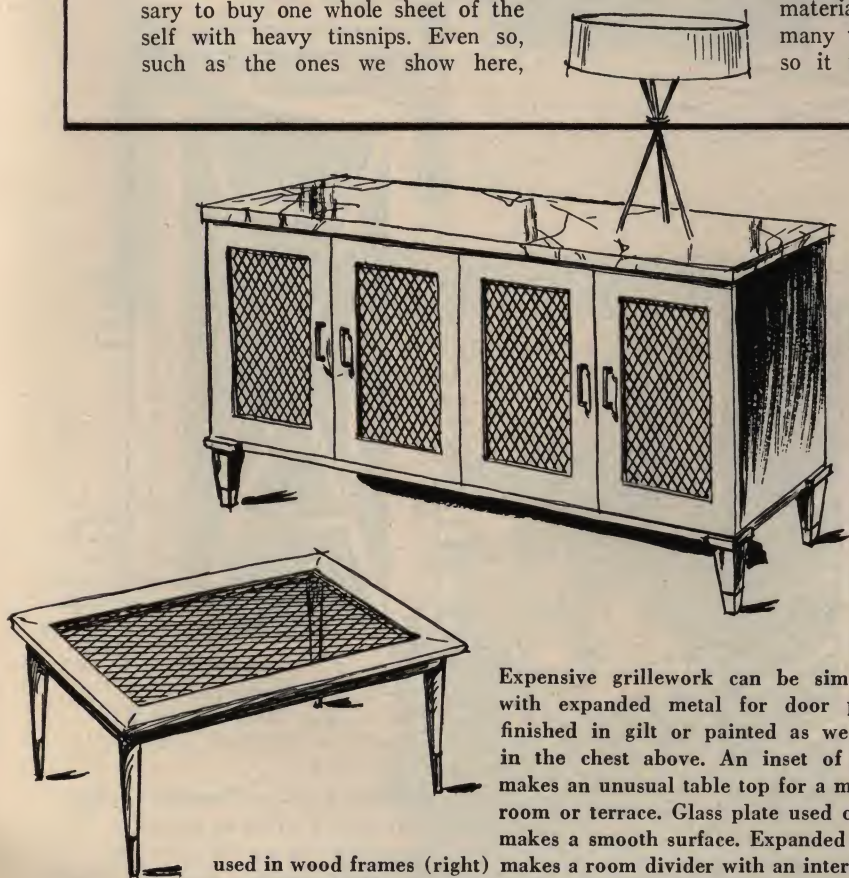
The garden gate below has "see through" panel of expanded metal set between two sheets of 1/2-inch plywood. Hardware is design in keeping with the French Provincial scallops on the gate. Panels of the metal could be used for an attractive fence with frame of wood. Painting expanded metal is easy with a paint roller and roller cover with thick nap



Good Ways to Use Expanded Metal

Used architecturally or in decoration, expanded metal is a versatile, durable, decorative, and relatively inexpensive material for which new and good uses are being found every day. Its airy attractiveness is always ingratiating, and its strength permits structural use. In the little portico above, medium gauge expanded metal in a wooden frame successfully takes on a role often played by hand-wrought iron. Sheets may be cut to required size by your local distributor or tinsmith, or it may be necessary to buy one whole sheet of the self with heavy tinsnips. Even so, such as the ones we show here,

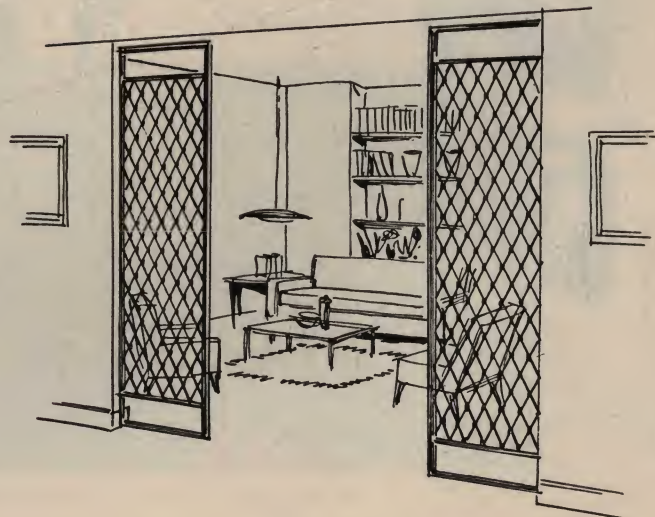
material and cut it your- many uses can be found, so it needn't be wasted.

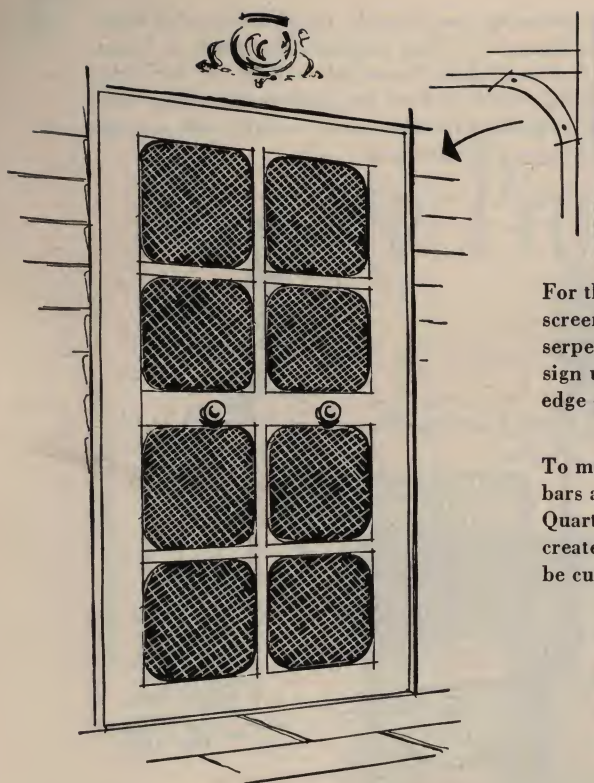


Expensive grillework can be simulated with expanded metal for door panels finished in gilt or painted as we show in the chest above. An inset of metal makes an unusual table top for a modern room or terrace. Glass plate used over it makes a smooth surface. Expanded metal

used in wood frames (right) makes a room divider with an interesting textured look. Metal panels can be painted to match or contrast with wall color. Use hinges if you want them to swing open or closed. Light to medium gauge is best for this use—about 10¢ to 15¢ per sq. ft.

Bring an old-fashioned, many-paned door up to date with a sheet of metal grille over the glass-paned section. Plant holders have hooks for hanging, are wired securely to grille panel

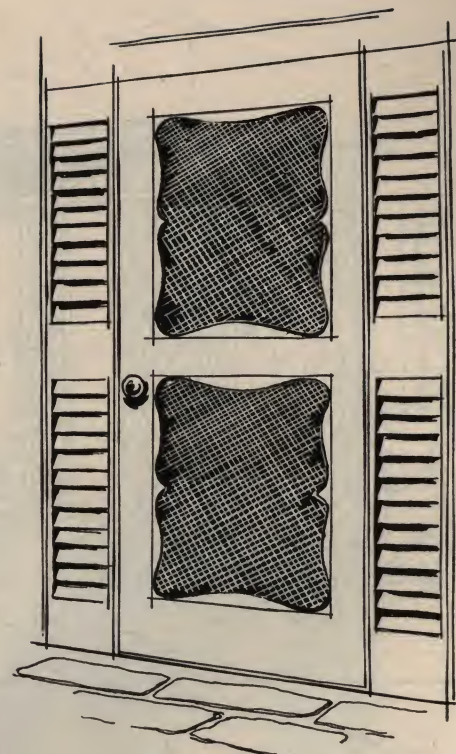




For a screen door with a different look (left), divide screen panel vertically with strips of lath. Add lath cross bars, and rounded plywood corner blocks, nailed into place. Finish off with twin door knobs

For the French accent, (right) start with a stock screen door frame. Add plywood cross bar, cut in serpentine design. Follow through with the same design using scalloped plywood insets nailed to inside edge of frame on remaining three sides of the panels

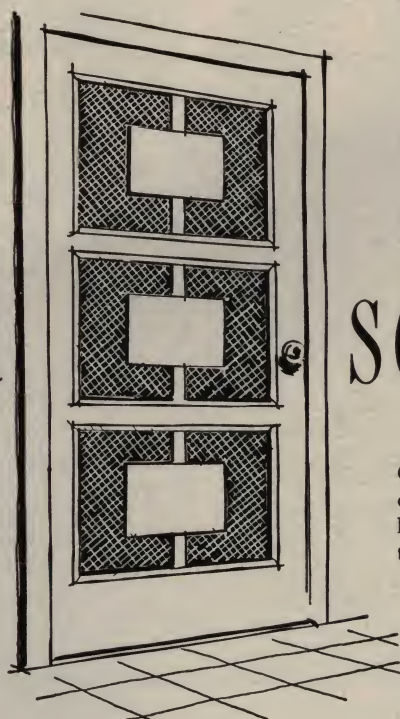
To make a screen door look wider (below), add cross bars and suspend blocks of wood in center of panels. Quarter-round molding outlines screen sections to create a smart shadowbox effect. Wood blocks could be cut in round, diamond, or other interesting shapes



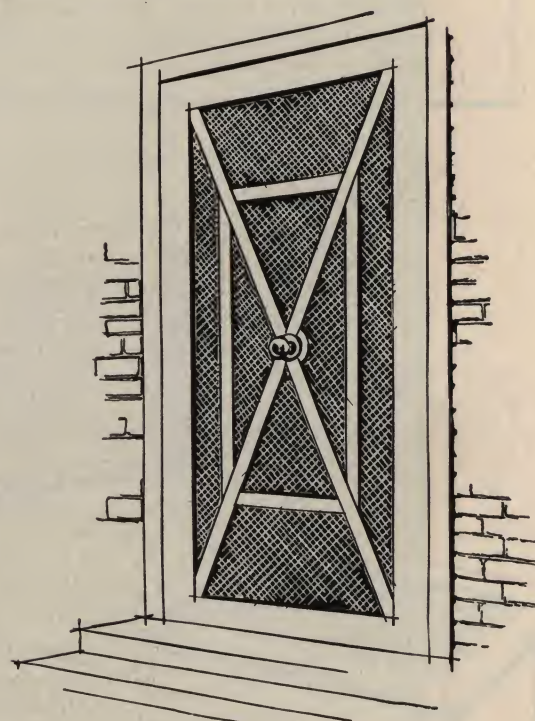
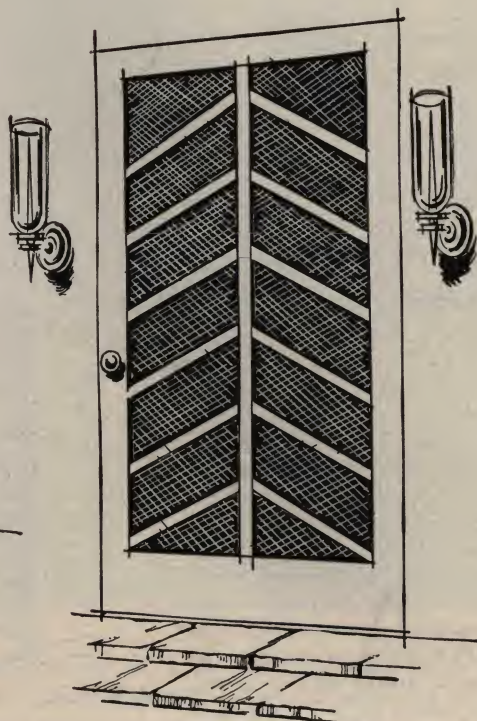
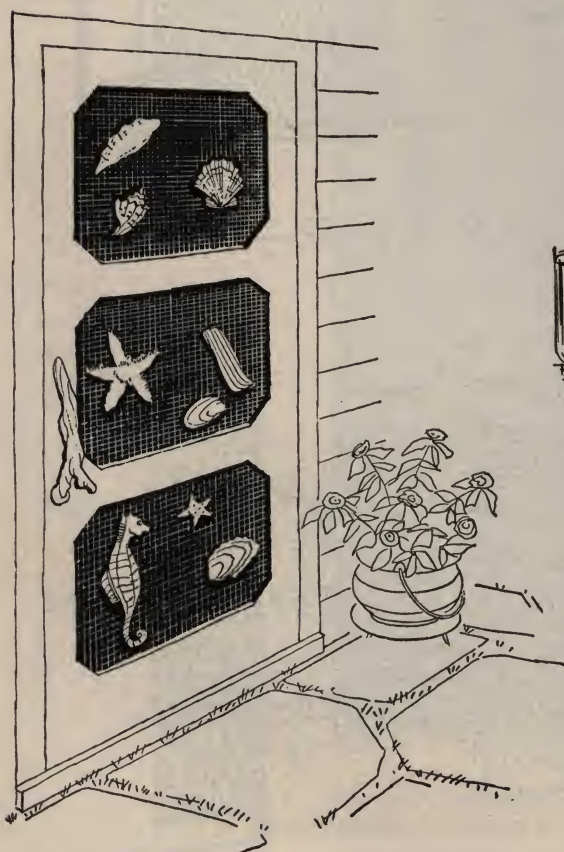
DRESS UP YOUR

SCREEN DOOR

For another door, (below) octagonal openings are made with horizontal cross bars to divide the door in thirds. Triangular wood blocks are nailed in corners and beachcomber's booty is wired securely to the screening

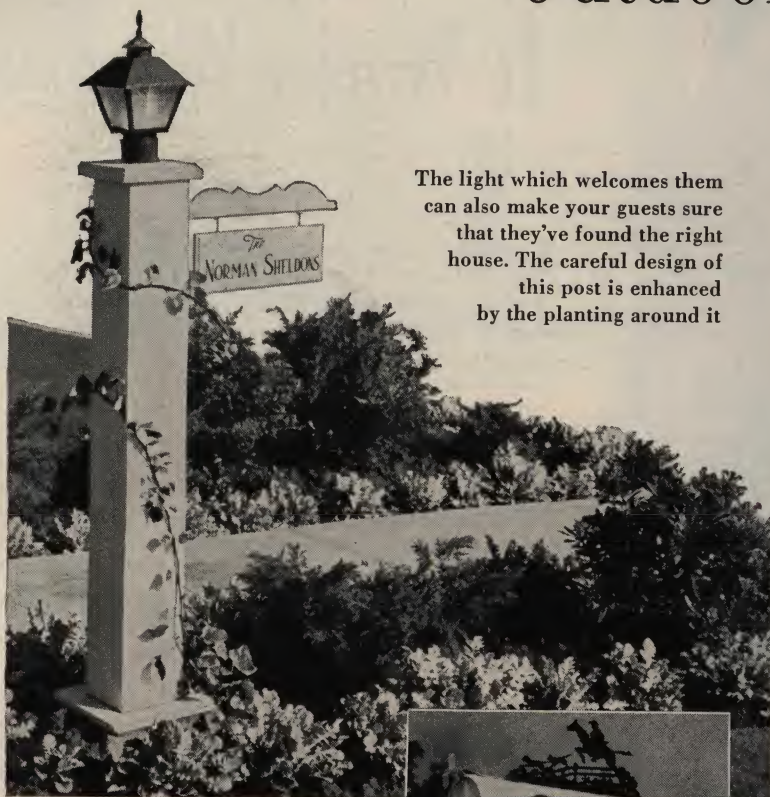


Centered door knob is decorative on the screen door (below) that doesn't need a conventional knob and lock. Narrow wood strips from corner to corner have joining rectangular design



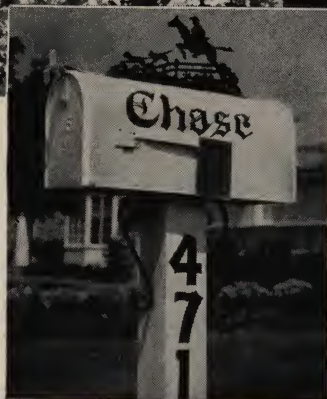
Flat molding, mitered and set diagonally inside frame of screen panel (left) is an attractive way to give an illusion of more height to a doorway. Herringbone design is good with almost any type of architecture, contemporary or traditional

More Outdoor Ideas



The light which welcomes them can also make your guests sure that they've found the right house. The careful design of this post is enhanced by the planting around it

If your mailbox identifies your house, be sure to display house number prominently. A decorative pun on your name, such as the fox hunter here, can be fun

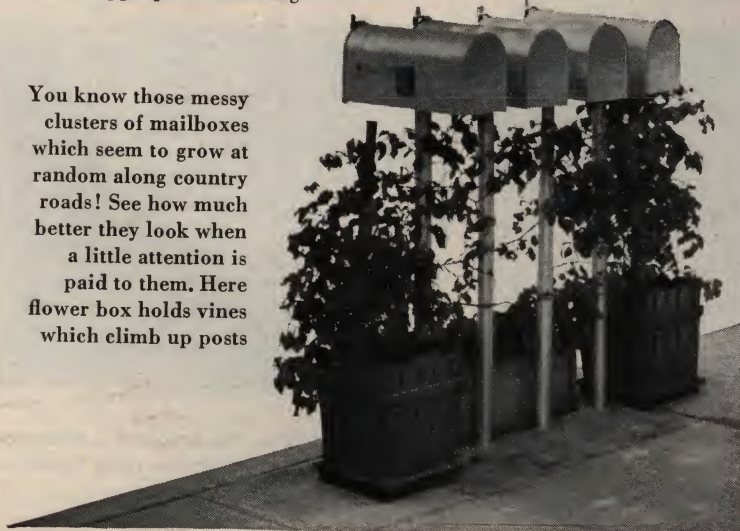


A visible road sign says "howdy" to your guests at your gate and keeps them from turning in at the wrong driveway



Your road sign can express your own personality and reflect the whole character of your home merely by appropriate lettering

You know those messy clusters of mailboxes which seem to grow at random along country roads! See how much better they look when a little attention is paid to them. Here flower box holds vines which climb up posts



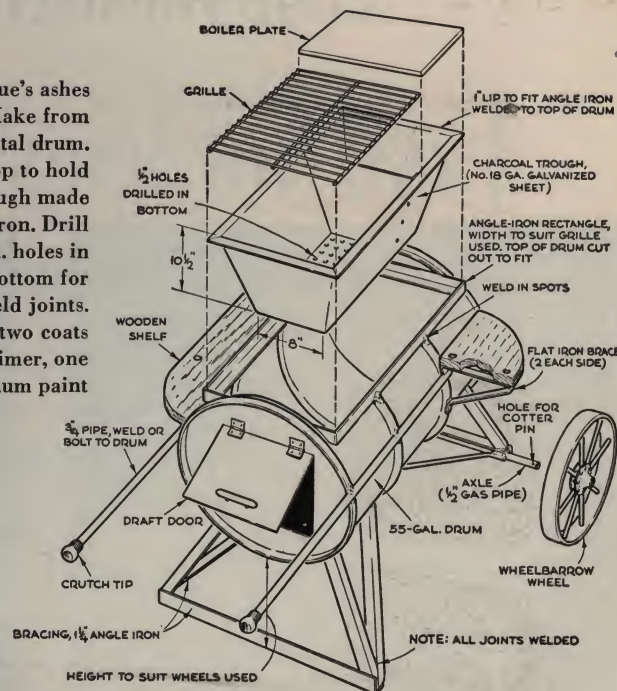
This cedar-paling gate can be a swing after school hours. It cost \$8 to build



Two 9½-ft. posts were set 3 ft. deep. Hinged gate, 4 ft. high, 3 wide, has hook closing. Cross piece—iron pipe masked by cedar strips—holds hooks to support swing. Seat is made of old box top; "ropes" are old parachute harness



This barbecue's ashes can't leak. Make from 55-gal. metal drum. Cut drum top to hold charcoal trough made of sheet iron. Drill six ¼-in. holes in drum bottom for drainage. Weld joints. Finish with two coats red lead primer, one coat aluminum paint





Bucket Barbecue— It Works Wonders

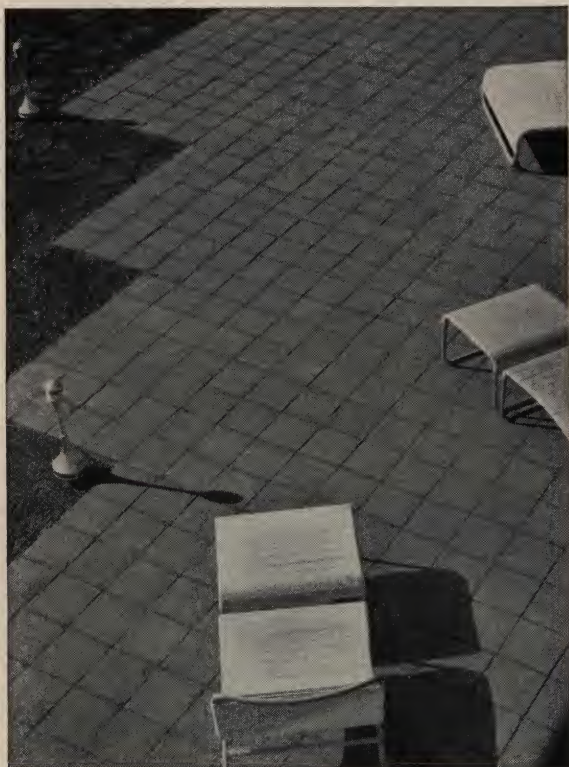
You can do the best steak you ever tasted in a plain bucket, using nothing but crumpled newspapers for fuel. Skeptical? So were we. But we tried it, and the result was pure perfection. We are happy to be able to report, too, that this method will work in an indoor fireplace as well as out of doors.

Buy steak streaked with fat, and leave the fat on. Rub with olive oil (this is important) and seasonings, and place in a folding grill. Then put a double sheet of crumpled newspaper (black and white only, no colors) in an ordinary galvanized bucket. Light paper, and let it warm bucket. Just before it burns out, add second paper. When it blazes, set grill atop bucket. Add paper, a sheet at a time, as required. Dripping fat helps the fire, and you'll have a steak with a real charcoal flavor in a matter of minutes.

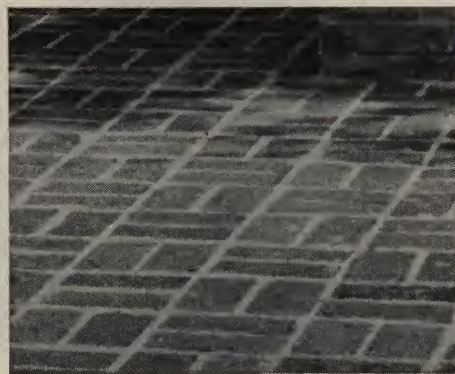
GOOD FOUNDATIONS FOR YOUR OUTDOOR LIVING

For a feeling of strong separation between each brick, set them down on a carefully drained and graded surface and cement them, leaving a deep raked, grouted joint

Redwood, cypress, or cedar logs set in a sand and gravel base make an unusual pattern. To ensure stability, cut the logs to a uniform five-inch thickness



Square paving tile with a slight grout of cement makes an attractive and easy-to-care-for terrace. Tiles are laid on leveled area. Provide drainage if needed



Bricks set in pairs alternately make this striking terrace. Grouting of cement is almost level with surface of brick to form a strong contrast of red and white



You can pour your own pre-formed concrete paving blocks in wood forms for a barbecue area like this. Plant grass or a sturdy creeper in the dirt between the blocks



Convenience at your elbow whenever you need it, wherever you need it. Just roll it along

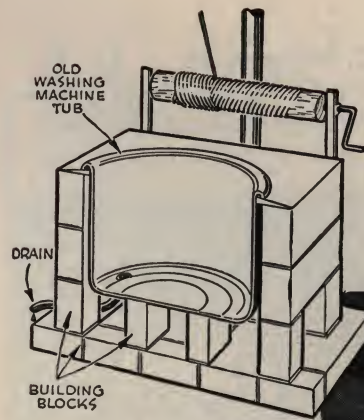
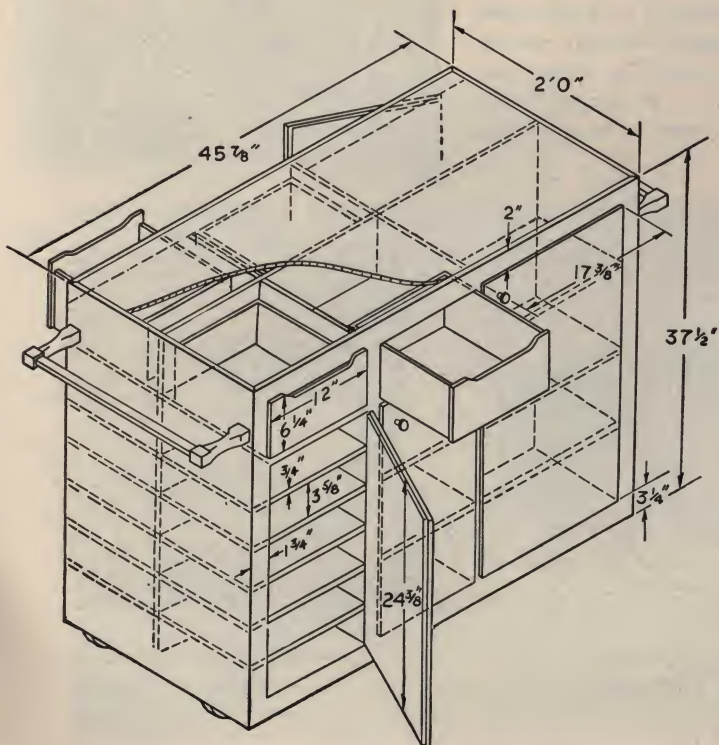
Roll-around Outdoor Service Bar

Here's a Service Bar that is portable and simply constructed of marine plywood, which withstands weather conditions. You will need 5 sheets of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood, 4 feet by 8 feet, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ sheets of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch plywood, 4 feet by 8 feet:

- 1 sheet for front and back, 1 sheet for top and bottom.
- 1 sheet for two sides and the two partitions between doors.
- 2 sheets for shelves, under drawers, and long partition.

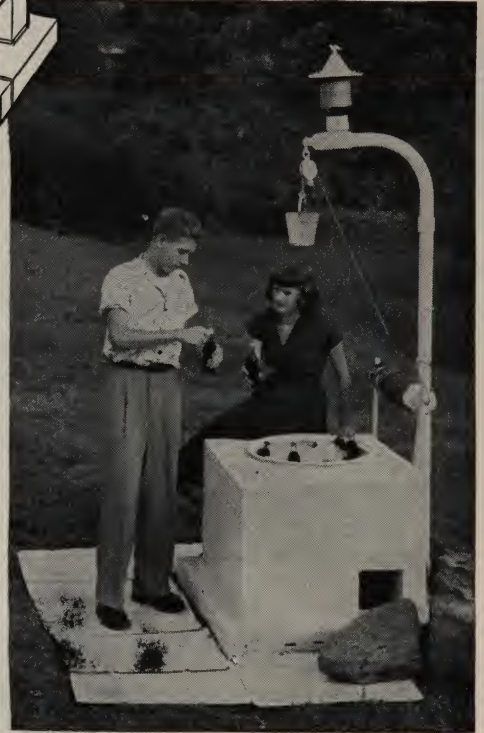
$1\frac{1}{2}$ sheets of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch plywood for sides, backs, drawer bottoms, fronts of drawers, and fronts of doors.

You will also need two $22\frac{1}{2}$ -inch chrome-finish towel bars and fixtures, and four hard-rubber, swivel-type wheels 3 inches in diameter, plus 4 knobs, 12 hinges and screws for doors.

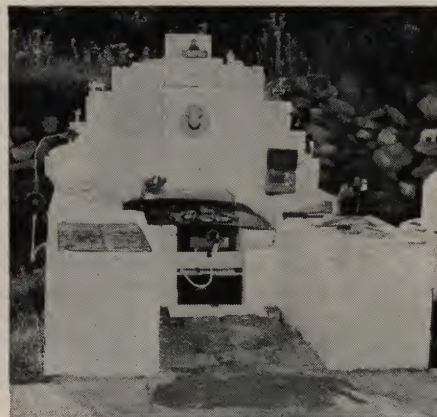


Cokes in the Well

Coke well holds two cases of drinks and enough chipped ice to keep them cold. Built of cement blocks laid around old washing machine as shown. Opening in left side for garden hose drain. Lid on top prevents ice from melting too quickly. Windlass made of 4-in. log, $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. pipe handle, support of 1-in. angle iron. Electric light and pulley support is 2-in. pipe, concealing lead-covered wire from house circuit. Bucket for bottle openers and caps



Piped for Gas!



Barbecue pit constructed of cement blocks filled in with dry cinders. 25-lb. drum of butane gas supplies entire season. Gas pressure provided with Reg-O regulation. Hand valve and safety valve on storage tank for safety. Cut-off for regulating high or low flame. Burner head from old gas water-heater, with slide for air regulation



Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Dempsey of

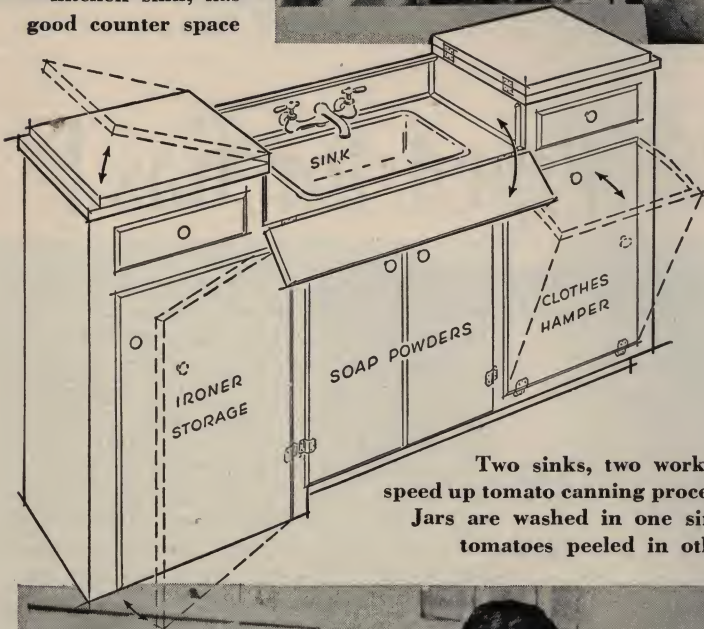
Harlingen, Texas, built themselves . . .

A Back-Porch Sink for Messy Chores

Without disturbing wife's food preparation or dishwashing in kitchen sink, Frank Dempsey uses porch sink to clean dirt from radishes, vegetables grown in own garden



Easy-to-copy unit is connected to same plumbing as inside kitchen sink, has good counter space



Two sinks, two workers speed up tomato canning process. Jars are washed in one sink, tomatoes peeled in other



Ironer comes out of left section, ready-to-iron clothes from bin in right section. Child's sandpile is just outside screened porch

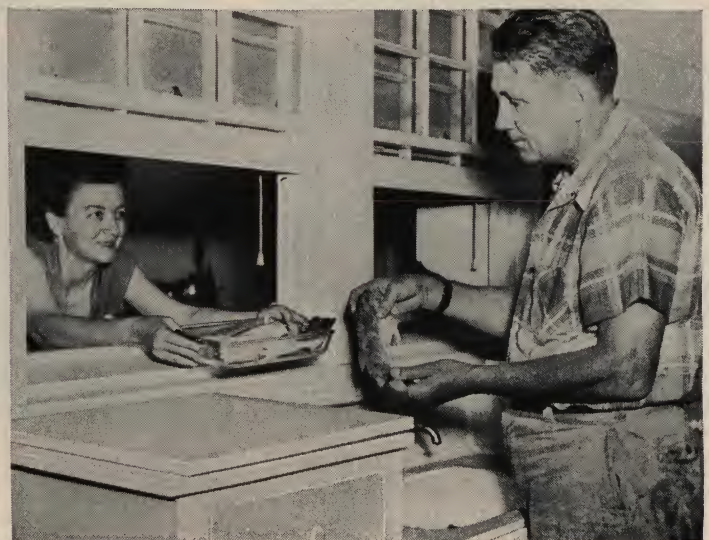


Ironer is put away. Mrs. Dempsey finds that easy accessibility, more space in which to work, has doubled use of her ironer

Porch becomes rumpus room for teen-age crowd. Ice in sink chills soft drinks, sandwiches and cookies are handed out through window



Fish are scaled, cleaned in porch sink, handed through window ready for frying pan or broiler. Fishy odor is kept outside



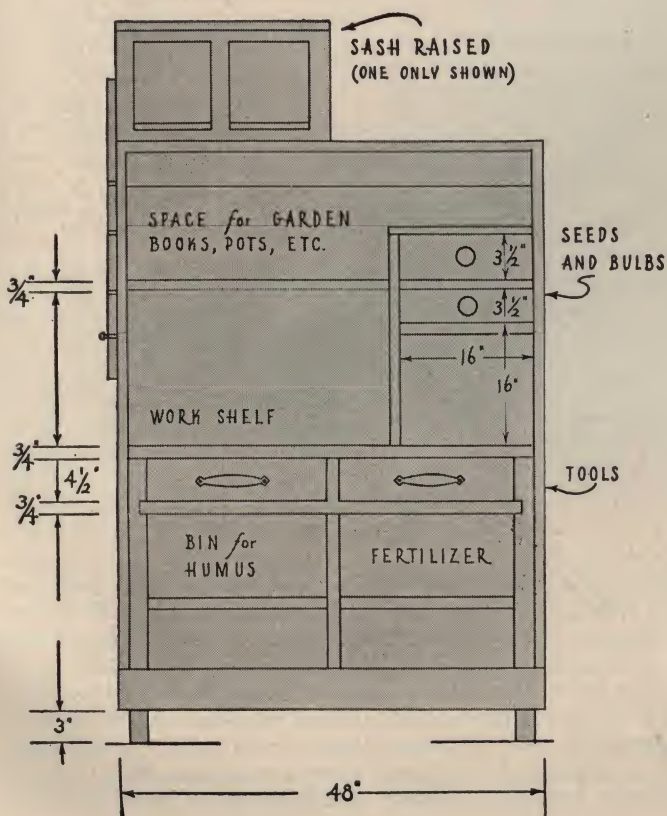
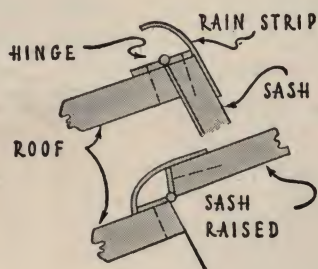
Little Ideas (Begins on page 90)

The rope lattice at the bottom of page 91 was designed not as a screen, but to break up a blank wall space along an entrance path with interesting shadow patterns. Made of more lasting wire cable, it could be used to support vines in pergola or trellis.

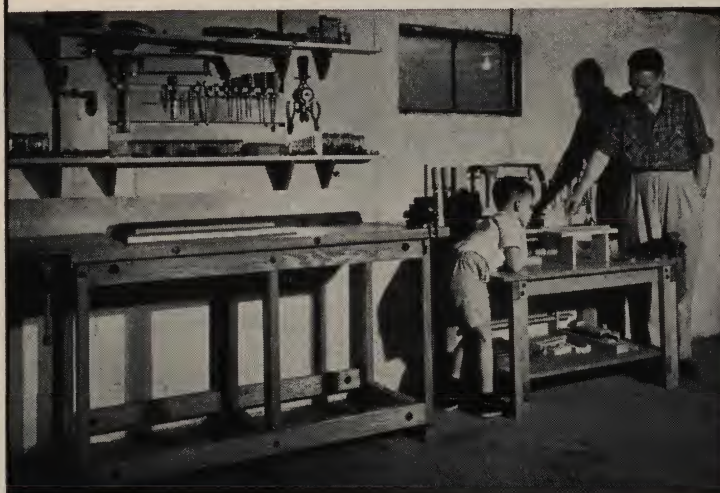
The plant support and shelter suggestions need little explanation. Used as tents, says Elsa M. Drews, of Nebraska, the orange crates cast broken shade; or for protection against cold, newspapers, burlap, old rugs, etc. can be laid over and thumb-tacked to them. To keep the eaves of the tall shelter at any desired pitch, fasten a stiff wire to the end strip of one side, wrap it once around the upright, then fasten it to the other end strip; repeat at the other end. . . . The lampshade-frame ideas on that same page are from Mrs. O. B. Dawson, Washington.

Arthur Fishelle, of California, designed the many-purpose, combination garden work bench and plant-starter. Sketches and working drawings explain its construction, but its versatile possibilities can be discovered only by using it. For simplicity, joints are put together with dowels and glue. Bins for soil, humus, etc., with sloping fronts for easy access, are below drawers for hand tools, labels, and so on. The linoleum-covered work surface is not harmed by water from pots or flats, and is easily cleaned. The upper drawers can hold bulbs, seed packets, many other things; the shelf will prove handy for reference and record books, bulletins, catalogues. The hinged lid or sash (with curved, galvanized metal rain-strip over the joint), covered with a flexible, wire-reinforced plastic glass substitute, can be in two sections, as shown, or all in one piece. The supports at either side are notched in several places so as to hold the sash at any of several heights as desired. We can imagine the sturdy legs equipped with heavy casters so the whole thing could be rolled under cover in bad weather or for winter.

More dimensions and directions for making versatile garden bench shown on page 90. At right, detail of metal strip to prevent rain leaking in above sash



Like Father, Like Son



Project for a Dad—make your son a workbench, a miniature of your own, and teach him the proper use of, and respect for, good tools. In the case we illustrate, the father is Frank Smith of Syosset, Long Island, an electrical engineer whose own workbench is a source of great pleasure—and great savings—in doing many a job around his new home. Young Bill, always an interested spectator, is now fast becoming a useful assistant. He initiates projects on his own since his Dad provided that junior-size workbench—junior size, but not junior grade, for the tools are good enough to deserve careful handling

Million Dollars Worth of Fun

(Begins on page 86)

is a big one. Unable to find enough scrap lumber to make a form for the whole pool, she used what she could collect to make one for half of it, poured the concrete, let it set four days, took the form down, rebuilt it to fit the rest of the pool, and poured the concrete there. But before that, a drain for emptying the pool when necessary had to be installed. As the property slopes gently downhill, she dug a little ditch from the lowest corner of the pool excavation toward the center of the yard, laid in it some pieces of salvaged old pipe (taping the joints with bicycle tape), and filled in the trench. She knew the tape would rot away in time, but she didn't mind a little seepage when draining the pool; anyway, she does this gradually to prevent flooding the yard. Illustrating how she kept costs down by using things she had around the place or could get easily, she used for drain stoppers a toy bowling pin at the outlet and a stick wrapped with cloth (in lieu of a big cork) at the pool end. Now we can go back to the actual construction.

In mixing the concrete—which was the hardest part of the job—Mrs. Higgins would put four shovels of gravel, three of sand, and one and a half of cement in her metal wheelbarrow, mix it dry, then wet, pour it between the wooden form and the side of the hole, tamp it well, and smooth off the rim around the top. Batch followed batch until both halves of the pool were finished. Then, with the form finally removed, she painted the inside of the pool with a light green paint that simultaneously colors and seals concrete, and filled in and leveled the soil around it. While the paint was drying, she was as excited and impatient as the children. But at last the day came. In half an hour there it was, filled with what the children called "green water," glittery in the sunshine, complete with miniature deck chairs and pint-sized umbrellas, swarming with all the children in the neighborhood. A sure-enough swimming pool—and Mrs. Higgins had done it, by herself, after all!

Gowland Porch

(Begins on page 78)

Beams and corner posts were made from 4 x 4's with a lap joint cut at top. A framework of 2 x 4's was built to support the sheets of translucent plastic roofing. 2 x 4's were notched to rest on the 4 x 4's and also where the cross bracing met. To give the roof a proper pitch to carry off rain water, a one-inch board, cut to the proper angle, was attached to the masonry wall against the house, and a similar slanted board was attached to the facing 4 x 4 beam



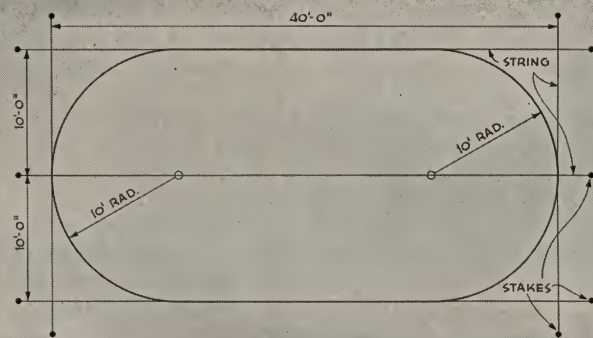
A strip of redwood, cut in a corrugated pattern, was nailed to the leading edge of the 4 x 4 and to the edge of the porch overhang. These strips were purchased cut to shape from the plastic supplier. They help to make the edges entirely weatherproof. To prevent development of leaks, the plastic was nailed in place with special gasketed nails only at top of corrugations



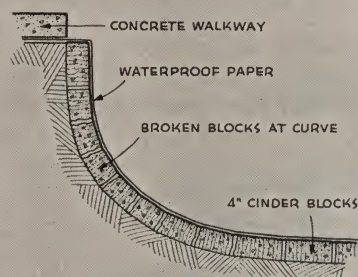
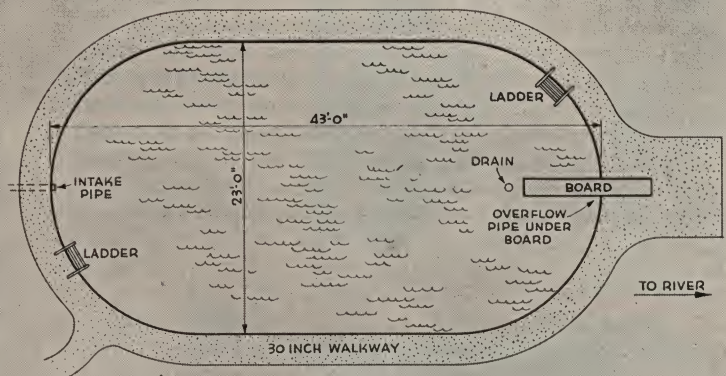
Since the roof extension is all plastic, the interior is snug, yet light as outdoors. Notice the built-in window seats and the excellent storage below them

Swimming Pool

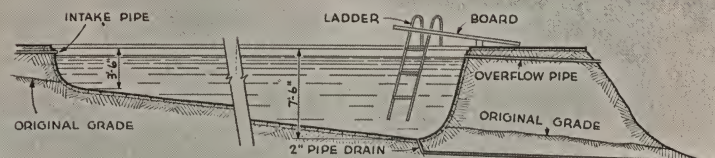
(Begins on page 84)



Staked out as above, the width and length gained 3 feet each during construction, to the finished sizes shown below. The planned depths—shallow, 4 feet and deep, 8 feet—lost half a foot each



The sections of the typical construction details at the left, and of the ends of the pool below show the bathtub shape that makes this pool easier and cheaper to build and fill with water than a box shape of the same dimensions



Since the site sloped toward the river bank, and the pool was placed with the deep end at the low part of the slope, the digging was minimized. The dirt was taken from the center of the area that had been marked in the yard, and piled around the outside, up to the level of the top of the pool. After the diggers had gone down a foot or so, a ramp was left for the wheelbarrows. This meant raising the dirt quite high as the hole became deeper, but did away with pushing the heavily loaded barrows up a steep bank to dump their loads. The ramp was the last bit of dirt to be shoveled out

Swimming Pool

(Begins on page 84)

as the hole approached completion.

The first few hours saw a tremendous amount of dirt removed. But the work soon took its toll on soft hands and tender muscles, and the pace slackened. Some workers were whipped and had to quit at lunchtime. Others stopped during the afternoon, but with coaxing the rest of the crew finished the digging before nightfall.

Next day, after applying liniment and bandages, the job of installing a drain at the deep end of the hole was tackled. About 30 feet outside this end of the excavation a heavy log battering ram was hung on a chain from a log tripod. Then sections of 2-inch pipe were rammed through the earth to the pool. The first section had a pointed cap made from a short piece of pipe, cut and hammered to a point. The pipe went through to the desired spot, the cap was removed, and an elbow attached ready for the drain. A valve, to control the drain, was placed at the outside end of the pipe where it would be easy to get at when the pool was full of water. If the soil had been rocky instead of sandy, the pipe might have been deflected or stopped during the ramming, but luck was with Mr. Spencer. By digging a trench before the dirt is piled high, the drain pipe can be laid in place and the ramming eliminated.

Solid cinder blocks, 4 inches by 8 inches by 16 inches, were used to line the dirt hole. 1800 blocks were bought, which proved to be enough for the pool and a sidewalk around the top. Starting in the center of the excavation, the blocks were placed on the dirt and leveled as the work progressed. The work continued right up the walls, but the sidewalk was left until later. Next the two metal ladders, made by a local blacksmith, were set in place. The following day the joints were filled, and the blocks given a wash coat with a very wet mortar of 3 parts portland cement, 1 part lime, and 6 parts sand, which bound the blocks into a single continuous shell. This mortar was also used to cement the ladders in place and to form the diving board anchor. And thus ended week end number two.

The cement coating was rubbed down with halves of common red bricks during the week, to smooth out any bumps. The third Saturday morning saw the pool ready to be sealed with a layer of heavy tarpaper. The first sheet was laid down the center of the pool, up the ends, and over the top about a foot. Following sheets lapped 6 inches. The laps were sealed with roofing cement and held in place with roofing nails driven into the cinder blocks. The nails were also covered with the roofing cement.

Large bubbles that formed in the paper were slit, the edges lapped, cemented and nailed down. The nails were cemented, and a patch cemented and nailed down over the slit. This same technique was used later for patches on spots damaged from use of the pool.

By the end of the third week end the pool was finished. After allowing two more days for the mortar to harden, the water was let in. A shallow well was dug and a pump hooked up for the water supply. Although it takes almost 5 days to fill the pool, the water supply is quite satisfactory, and very economical.

With the pool completed, the cinder blocks were laid around the top as a sidewalk, resting on the black paper that extended over the edge of the pool. The walk was given a wash coat of mortar like that on the blocks in the pool, but was not covered with the black paper.

The diving board was made from a 14-foot-long piece of 2 x 18 yellow pine lumber. It was painted white, and, while the paint was still wet, sand was sprinkled on it to make a non-slip surface.

When the pool was first filled, the black color of the paper caused the water to absorb a great deal of heat from the sun. With the warmth came tadpoles, by the poolful. As a result, the pool was later given a coat of asphalt-aluminum paint while it was empty for one of the periodic cleanings. Also, now about twice a week a double handful of bluestone (copper sulphate) in a cloth bag is dragged on the surface of the water. The copper sulphate dissolves and distributes itself evenly, as it sinks to the bottom of the pool. It disinfects the water, kills marine life, and discourages slime. The pool is now delightfully cool, free from little strangers.

Once a month during the swimming season the pool is drained completely, and the sides are scrubbed with brooms. It takes a day or a night for the pool to empty. Usually the drain valve is opened on a Sunday evening after the last swimmers have departed. On Monday some of the children who frequent the pool scrub it during the day, and when Mr. Spencer arrives home from work in the evening, the pool is ready for refilling.

When the pool is full and in use, fresh water is constantly pumped in, floating much of the surface dirt, bugs, paper, and leaves out through the overflow pipe. When there are no swimmers in the pool, a stream of water from the hose starts a current that directs most of the surface dirt to and out through the overflow. The rest of the dirt that floats on the surface is picked up in a large

strainer that is attached to a pole.

Initially Mr. Spencer had strainers in the overflow pipe and the drainage opening at the bottom of the pool. A couple of floating leaves on the screen soon stopped the overflow, and the strainer was removed. Since then there have been no stoppages. The drainage strainer soon met the same fate for similar reasons. Occasionally, when dirt accumulates in the drain pipe, it is necessary to loosen it from the outside end with a stream of water from a hose inserted at the valve. As a general rule, however, there is no trouble.

The first person in the pool was, fittingly enough, a former commando who had helped build it. He dived in fully clothed while the first water was being pumped in, when there was still no more than 18 inches of water. He came up without even a bruise, but this was still sufficient proof of the necessity for a Personal Liability Insurance policy which costs only \$10 and protects Mr. Spencer from lawsuits due to injury on his property.

When the water was up to the planned depth, that daring young man was followed in the next couple of weeks by a constantly growing procession of friends, new friends, friends of friends, strangers, little boys with dogs and ducks, little girls who couldn't swim, and little girls whose mothers were delighted to have them out of the house for 2 or 3 hours. The Spencers were thrilled with the new pool and wanted as many people as possible to help them enjoy it, but it got out of hand.

Kids arrived at sun-up, determined to introduce new features of entertainment. There were water fights, mock drownings, duckings, and general horseplay that was almost all good, clean fun, but too much of it and it lasted for too long a time to be funny. With the small-fry came boxes, barrels, hose for breathing under water, hose for slapping little girls' legs (same hose), logs and log rafts. And one of the more affluent of the small ones arrived one day ready to launch a man-sized rubber life raft, complete with sail and rudder, in the 43-foot pool.

There were no rules, so some were made. They were never posted, but they were announced and are enforced. Written out they look rather formidable, but they are really necessary, and if you build a pool, you'll need a similar set to maintain order.

Rules for Spencer Swimming Pool
1. No one is permitted in the pool unless Mr. or Mrs. Spencer is home or is represented by a responsible person at the pool.

2. Children who can swim have a blanket invitation for Saturdays from 2 to 5 PM. Non-swimmers must be

accompanied by their parents.

3. Adults' day is Sunday. Use of the pool at all other times is only by invitation from the Spencers.

4. No horseplay, ducking, shoving, or mock drowning permitted.

5. No sticks, boards, or pets permitted in pool. Innertubes or the equivalent are allowed, that's all.

6. Wash feet before entering pool.

The hose is handy for this purpose.

7. Don't urinate in pool. Penalty for violation is complete banishment. (Enforcement is difficult, but the kids co-operate.)

Beside the unpleasant task of imposing restrictions, the Spencers have done and learned a host of things to make the pool more fun. It was found that lolling around the pool was a big part of the pleasure. The addition of beach chairs was a logical result. Evergreen shrubs perked up the area, and wandering ground ivy (non-poisonous, of course) keeps most of the sand from wet feet and from blowing into the pool. Grass wasn't used because cuttings would be carried into the pool on wet feet. The hose for washing feet doesn't reach the edge of the pool, where unthinking guests might carelessly wash sand into the water.

A log-rail and wire fence with wisteria and honeysuckle on it keeps out small children, dogs and blowing paper and leaves. A bath house near the pool is convenient for guests who have to change, and saves wear and tear on the Spencer guest room. The two lanterns for night bathing have insect-repellent bulbs. They are mounted on rough posts set well back from the pool edge so that any bugs that do reach them won't drop exhausted in the water. When there is no wind, an Aerosol bomb settles the mosquito problem.

During the winter the water is left in the pool, and, when ice forms, it is used for skating. No damage has resulted, and, in fact, the body of water keeps the surrounding earth from freezing and heaving the pool sides. The only damage to the pool has been negligible breaks in the tarpaper at the ladder because the steps are too close to the side and the bathers' feet scuff the paper.

Have you been a "Pool-wisher?" Don't hesitate longer. Follow in Mr. Spencer's footsteps and have your own swimming hole this summer. It's a lot of work, but still more fun for you and your neighbors.

Though "wishing" won't quite put a pool in your backyard, some of the advice of one who wished and worked for it will certainly help take the bugs out of your own pool project if you decide you "just can't wait another summer" to bathe luxuriously in one of your own.

Night Life

(Begins on page 92)

LIGHT FOR PRACTICAL REASONS

Utility lights: For use out of doors, there are spot or flood lights with whose help one can finish a gardening job at any hour.

Light for safety: Properly placed on your driveway, walks, steps, terraces, and service areas, utility spot or flood lights can prevent accidents and deter night prowlers. And remember that fire risks from indoor Christmas trees can be avoided by lighting an outdoor tree.

Light to repel insects: For some unexplained reason, yellow bulbs do not attract insects as do ordinary white ones. But keep yellow bulbs away from flowers as the yellow may make blossom colors muddy and ugly.

LIGHT FOR BEAUTY

Other more aesthetic functions are to show off the beauties of your trees—and at all seasons, for branch shadow patterns can be as striking in their way as softly illumined foliage masses. Reflectors of various types and forms can be placed on the ground or high in the branches so as to throw the light wherever it is most effective.

To reveal the night charm of flower beds and borders, shrubs, rock gardens, etc., green-finished leaf reflectors, in both natural and formalized designs, on metal spikes, can be used either singly or in chains like Christmas-tree lights. In the daytime, their forms and colors blend unobtrusively into the real foliage.

Your garden pool, whether it is half a barrel or half a garden in extent, assumes a new, strange loveliness when hidden lights shine down on it from above or from its depths. Just as jewels are never so gorgeous as when seen under lights, so a pool is never so bewitching as when its waters are skillfully lit.

In your picnic or barbecue area, happy hours can be multiplied by supplying soft light from sources hidden here and there on the ground; or, if you want more concentrated brightness, from a shielded spotlight clamped to the shaft of your table umbrella which will, itself, serve as a reflector. Outlets set into or near the barbecue provide connections for coffee pot, chafing dish, etc.

INSTALLATION ISN'T DIFFICULT

Of course, for any sort of outdoor lighting, you need waterproof cords, sockets, reflectors, and other parts. Today, when even small new homes are equipped with one or more waterproof outside connections (presumably for electric hedge clippers, lawn mowers, and other labor savers) it is no problem at all to plug in cords leading to your light fixtures. Or use a garage or basement outlet—if you make sure that the cord is not carried through a door or window where it

will be subjected to wear or injury.

There are two easy, inexpensive wiring methods. One uses interchangeable, molded-rubber, one-piece cord sets which lie on the ground and can be led from spot to spot wherever wanted. Ordinary light bulbs can be used in the waterproof sockets if screwed in tightly so the rubber gasket grips the glass of the bulb.

The other method employs modern, extra-heavy durable cable which can be laid in a trench a few inches to a foot deep with a bed of sand below it, and a board above it if it goes under a path, drive or wherever much traffic may exert heavy pressure. Also, locate it where digging and other gardening operations will not disturb or damage it. If laid along the edge of a flower or shrub border, it can be moved about from season to season for variety and convenience.

ADD ANOTHER "ROOM"

Just as garden design and planting to modify the climate around the home are helping more people in the East and Middle West to spend more time out of doors, as those in the South and on the Pacific Coast have long been doing, so garden lighting can contribute to this same result by, in effect, adding one or more rooms to a home. How many men would welcome a place where, of an evening, they could sit down quietly, to smoke and think? How many parents would appreciate the chance to retreat to the softly lit coolness of the garden when the hot music from radio or television is being enjoyed by the teen-agers in the living room? What a boon for old folks who may not always want to take part in the entertainment of guests indoors.

[One caution, of course; or, rather, two. Be sure all electrical installations are done properly, with approved materials and so calculated as not to put excessive loads on your circuits and permanent wiring. Second, in placing utility floodlights, or any sort of overhead lights, take care that they do not throw an unsuspected blinding glare either into your own yard or driveway, or into the street or a neighbor's property.

In addition to firms that make or sell garden lighting equipment, many large manufacturers of electrical equipment, and many public utility companies, can supply helpful information on this subject.—ED.]



Skylar Remodeling

(Begins on page 33)

220-volt circuits, and I put in a good foundation of quarter-inch hard felt under the new linoleum—all to prepare for modern equipment.

Ripping the kitchen apart took about a week—redecorating it required twice that. While the new plaster dried, I had a plumber install the sink and dishwasher unit—the only professional installations in the kitchen. For the rest of the equipment, we planned staggered deliveries to avoid confusion. Each unit went into its spot as it arrived—our washer and dryer were at work the evening of the day we received them.

The next project was finding some suitable flooring—easy to clean, good looking, and able to endure a beating. Vinyl cork tile seemed to fill our bill, and I learned that I could lay it quickly with "proper advice," and the correct tools. To obtain both, we hired an experienced floor man for one day. He arrived 8:30 on a Saturday morning, and by 8:35 we were both on our knees putting down tile. We stayed that way for seven hours. Then our professional departed, leaving his equipment behind. We had dinner—and went back to work. Some sleep. Then more work. Exactly 36 hours after we had started, we had more than 650 square feet of elegant flooring—all ready for contemporary furnishings. It really looked wonderful, and when Claudia initiated it, its sound-deadening qualities became apparent. Luxury!

When it came to decorating and furnishing, Marilyn took over—she has the decorating sense in the family, and she had started her plans the day we bought the house.

The white walls she specified in the living room and den have a double advantage—you can build a lovely color scheme around them, and you can roll on a little paint any time it is needed—without worrying about an exact match. The morning of a recent party, we noticed Claudia's finger marks all over the fireplace wall. Out came the white paint and roller, and the whole wall was repainted in 45 minutes!

For papering the dining room, however, I did call in a professional—I was afraid of an amateur's job on the handsome, and somewhat intricately patterned paper Marilyn had selected. But I set up a dado, and painted the lower part of the wall and the ceiling myself. That hanging wall cabinet in the dining room was another satisfactory project. We bought it unpainted, then couldn't find a stain to match our furniture. A wood-grained paper did the trick.

Gradually, the downstairs took shape, and assumed our own stamp. And when it was complete, the upstairs became our next target.

A Family Pool

(Begins on page 83)

be invited; but inevitably there are a few who will not—and it is those others who arrive unasked and en masse, indifferent as to their numbers. The result is overcrowding and chaos, and for no one the pleasure that you planned for and anticipated.

The only answer to that problem is to make it known to one and all, in a nice way, that the use of the pool is on an invitation basis. If someone telephones to ask if he can come over and it is the wrong time, be prepared to say, "We'd love to have you, and we will soon; but today Susan has her friends here," or "David and his gang are in the pool now." That not only takes care of today, but conveys the idea that you will have them over—at your invitation.

The use of the pool by the family and guests is equally important. Our procedure may or may not fit your situation without some adaptation, but generally we have found it good. First, write down these rules:

1. No issuing of invitations to pool without consulting Mom or Dad.
2. Do not enter or play around pool unless an adult is present.
3. Always a trip to the bathroom before entering the pool.
4. Never enter pool without walking through the bucket.
5. No indiscriminate jumping, ducking, splashing, or "rough stuff."

When the rules are ready, sit down with the family and explain them. How you present them is as important as the rules themselves. Point out that a place to swim in right at home is a really big thing—pretty special. Like all good things, it must be governed by a few rules—not to spoil anyone's enjoyment, but to increase it for everyone concerned. The pool is a family plaything, and each member must consider all the others. Read and discuss each rule. You will find readiness to help interpret them and willingness and pride in co-operating. End the meeting something like this: "We can have a lot of fun with the pool, but it can be dangerous if we don't remember these rules. So they are going to be absolutely and strictly enforced." Thereafter you will have a definite system to follow, and you'll be amazed at the way the family—down to the littlest member—will co-operate, and keep their friends in line, too.

Build your outdoor fireplace somewhere near the pool, also a paved terrace or patio, and the spot will become the center of happy summer activity. You'll find the pool a joyful, health-giving, enormously pleasurable thing in your family life. And you can have it—as we have proved—for less than one family vacation jaunt. Moreover, you can have it not for just one year, but for life.

This is what you've been waiting for...

You asked for it . . . and at last it's here! The very best of the flower arrangement and table setting articles that have been such popular features every month in *The American Home Magazine*. Packed with gorgeous color photographs, there are 96 pages of inspired floral pieces, from exquisite miniature arrangements for tiny tables to big-scale beauties for home weddings. There's a special portfolio of lovely tables with sparkling ideas — blue ribbon winners in table setting contests and simple but beautiful settings for entertaining at home. There are Thanksgiving tables, Christmas tables, Easter tables, loads of party tables . . . oh, almost everything you can think of!

There's a comprehensive section on table etiquette in the form of a fascinating quiz to determine how much you know (and don't know!) about setting a proper table. It's a *must* for every garden clubber . . . a constant source of inspiration to any woman who prides herself on setting a fine table.

THE AMERICAN HOME BOOK OF Flower Arrangements And Table Settings

\$1.00

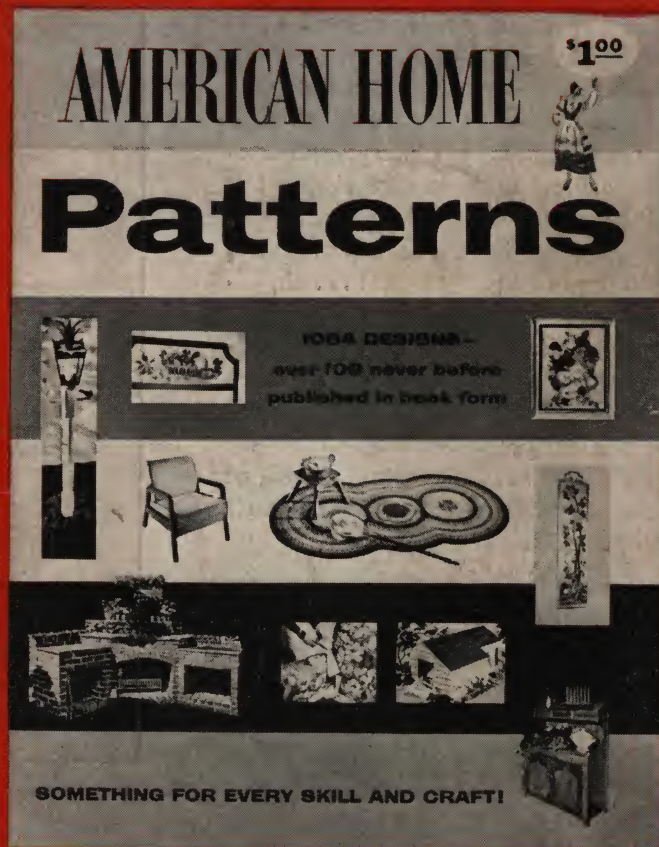


MORE THAN 320 ILLUSTRATIONS • 157 HOW-TO PICTURES

Never before a book like this! Cover to cover, packed with color illustrations to inspire you — plus step-by-step pictures to show you how. Look for it on your newsstand today!

**Build it,
Paint it,
Sew it—
We have a **PATTERN** for it!**

✿ 1064 ways, small and large, to feather your nest. Whether it's a two-fisted, Texas-style barbecue, an Early American chest, or a rose-garlanded boudoir you want, you'll find do-it-yourself suggestions aplenty here. You needn't be a Michelangelo or Chippendale to execute them — our skill-tested, **FOOLPROOF PATTERNS** and **BLUEPRINTS** do the brainwork, while you take the bows!



**BUY IT AT YOUR NEWSSTAND TODAY
JUST ONE DOLLAR — AND EVERY PENNY OF IT
BUYS 10 GOOD IDEAS AND THEN SOME**

THE AMERICAN HOME PATTERN BOOK

Digitized by



ASSOCIATION
FOR
PRESERVATION
TECHNOLOGY,
INTERNATIONAL
www.apti.org

BUILDING
TECHNOLOGY
HERITAGE
LIBRARY

<https://archive.org/details/buildingtechnologyheritagelibrary>

From the collection of:

Alan O'Bright

**Build
Pain
Sew
We have**



for it!



1064 ways, small and large, to feather your nest. Whether it's a two-fisted, Texas-style barbecue, an Early American chest, or a rose-garlanded boudoir you want, you'll find do-it-yourself suggestions aplenty here. You needn't be a Michelangelo or Chippendale to execute them — our skill-tested, **FOOLPROOF PATTERNS** and **BLUEPRINTS** do the brainwork, while you take the bows!

AMERICAN HOME Patterns

\$1.00



BUY IT AT YOUR NEWSSTAND TODAY
JUST ONE DOLLAR — AND EVERY PENNY OF IT
BUYS 10 GOOD IDEAS AND THEN SOME

THE AMERICAN HOME PATTERN BOOK